

REVIEW
Breathing
space for
the Broads

SPORT
Mansell's
Grand Prix
challenge

TRAVEL
High life
in the
Pyrenees

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
458,000
No 63,351

THE TIMES

SATURDAY MARCH 25 1989

(30p)

Bush says air threats should be kept secret

More bulletins leaked on terror warnings

- President Bush said that bombing and hijacking warnings should be kept secret from the travelling public
- His comments came after two further security bulletins from the US Federal Aviation Administration were leaked
- He said that making all warnings public would encourage "every nut in the world" to make similar threats
- Tighter security checks at London airports singled out men of Middle-Eastern descent for surveillance

By Mohsin Ali in Washington and Michael Evans in London

President Bush spoke out strongly yesterday in favour of bomb and hijack warnings being kept secret from the general public, as fears of another terrorist outrage continued to cause serious delays at British airports.

He made his views clear after two further security bulletins from the US Federal Aviation Administration had been leaked.

Mr Bush said that the purpose of all FAA bulletins was to alert security personnel

at airports and elsewhere, "not to scare the traveller so that he will have no confidence in the safety of the airlines".

The President said that if all terrorist warnings were made known to the public, most of which proved to be "frivolous", the number of calls would "quadruple because every nut in the world will start calling in and enjoying the silent satisfaction of fouling up the travel schedules".

Mr Bush, interviewed in the *Washington Times*, added that it was prudent to allow the security people to know and to take as many "precautions" as possible.

One bulletin that came to light yesterday, sent on December 7 last year — two weeks before the Lockerbie disaster — warned airlines and governments of an incident at Frankfurt airport when two bogus police officers questioned US officials working for TWA about arrangements for transporting "pistols, explosives and a detonator".

Neither the FAA nor the Department of Transport in London would make any comment about this document, the fourth to be issued in the weeks leading up to Lockerbie. The other bulletin, leaked earlier this week, was dated March 16 and warned of a possible hijack attempt by three named Lebanese Palestinians. Yesterday, an official at the US State Department counter-terrorism section said that none of the three listed were known terrorists.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, also emphasized that, contrary to published reports, the March 16 warning did not mention the Easter holiday period, nor did it refer to a specific airline or airport. But he explained that the public should be made aware that this bulletin was designed to heighten the already "high-security" procedures now in effect. Mr Fitzwater added: "FAA security bulletins are distributed

to airline and airport officials who can direct responses to the threat. This sensitive information is not designed for public distribution."

Britain and the US shared the view that passengers should remain confident that all reasonable precautions were being taken to ensure the highest level of security. To underline this point, both Heathrow and Gatwick yesterday were subjected to long delays yesterday, as armed police patrolled the airports.

At Heathrow, dozens of extra police officers and plain-clothed detectives were drafted in for the weekend. Security staff doubled the numbers of checks on passengers flying to main destinations. Men of Middle-Eastern origin were singled out for surveillance. The leaked March 16 warning suggested that a bomb might be planted in radios or electrical goods. Yet thousands of passengers queued for their planes with radio and hi-fi equipment.

The US team of six officials from the Department of Transportation, which has been meeting with Lockerbie investigators in Britain and West Germany this week, returned home yesterday.

A department spokesman said they would be reporting to Mr Samuel Skinner, the Transportation Secretary, who is due to fly to Europe next month to see his counterparts in Britain, France and West Germany about improving the system for disseminating anti-terrorist warnings.

At Heathrow, Miss Angela Jones, aged 27, from Manchester, was one of many passengers carrying a radio. She said she had no idea that passengers had been advised to leave radio cassettes at home. "I'm quite embarrassed, because if I had known I wouldn't have brought it. It's ironic because the only reason I did bring it was in case there were delays. Now I find I may be the cause of the delays."

Minorco court offer

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Minorco, the mining investment group, is to offer the New York district court a binding promise to sell Consolidated Gold Fields' main United States asset, a last-ditch attempt to lift legal barriers to its £3.3 billion takeover bid for the mining group, the largest ever made for a British company.

The South African-controlled group admitted that if the private anti-trust case brought by ConsGold went to a full trial, it could last many weeks, preventing it winning control before April 26, the deadline under City takeover rules. It sees little chance of agreeing a takeover at a higher price with the hostile ConsGold board.

Details, page 17

BBC baffled by the time for change

By Edward Gorman

Independent Radio News is getting it right. The BBC — television and radio — is getting it wrong: so are Scotland and British Airways. No one seems absolutely sure when it should happen, and even the Home Office admits there is a lot of confusion.

The problem: when should the clocks change? According to the BBC's manager in charge of time, the clocks should go forward on Sunday morning at two o'clock, and that's what will happen on television and radio.

According to the Home Office, however, the BBC will be wrong, which means that when Radio 2 broadcasts the news at one o'clock tomorrow morning, it will in fact be two o'clock.

British Airways will also change at 2 am, switching its schedule according to the Home Office, at the wrong time. A BA spokeswoman said airlines had

changed at two o'clock "for donkey's years".

Luckily, there are no BA flights during the time of the switch-over or passengers could arrive early for take-offs or suddenly land an hour late. "It's a horrendous subject I must admit," she said.

British Summer Time begins at 1 am tomorrow, when clocks go forward one hour. It will end at 2 am on October 29.

said, "It's like time warp in H.G. Wells isn't it?"

In Lancashire the tricky business of switching from Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time is more serious — police in Blackburn are insisting that a local disco, Peppermint Place, must close an hour early, at one o'clock GMT, which will be 2 am BST, despite having a licence until two o'clock GMT.

The manager, Mr Bill Gilligan, is angry about losing an hour for which he

Baby is among 59 rescued from theme park's crippled cable cars

By Ian Smith, Edward Gorman, Kerry Gill and Mark Souster

Firemen used hydraulic ladders, ropes and harnesses to free 59 people from wind-buffed cable cars in a dramatic rescue more than 30 ft above ground at Alton Towers leisure complex in Staffordshire yesterday.

In a two-hour emergency rescue operation a man in a wheelchair was brought safely down and a two-year-old boy was strapped to the back of an Alton Towers worker.

Although several passengers suffered slight shock none needed hospital treatment.

Firemen were called to Europe's biggest leisure park

Forecasts.....16

after high winds caused the Skyride cable-car system to shut down automatically, trapping day-trippers high above a tree-lined ravine.

One cable car, caught by a particularly strong gust, jammed against a stanchion, trapping terrified passengers for more than two hours.

A fireman had to use special equipment to swing down the cable to the car before getting through a service hatch in its roof.

Once inside he dropped a rope to the ground where colleagues were cutting down trees and undergrowth to make room for passengers to be lowered safely.

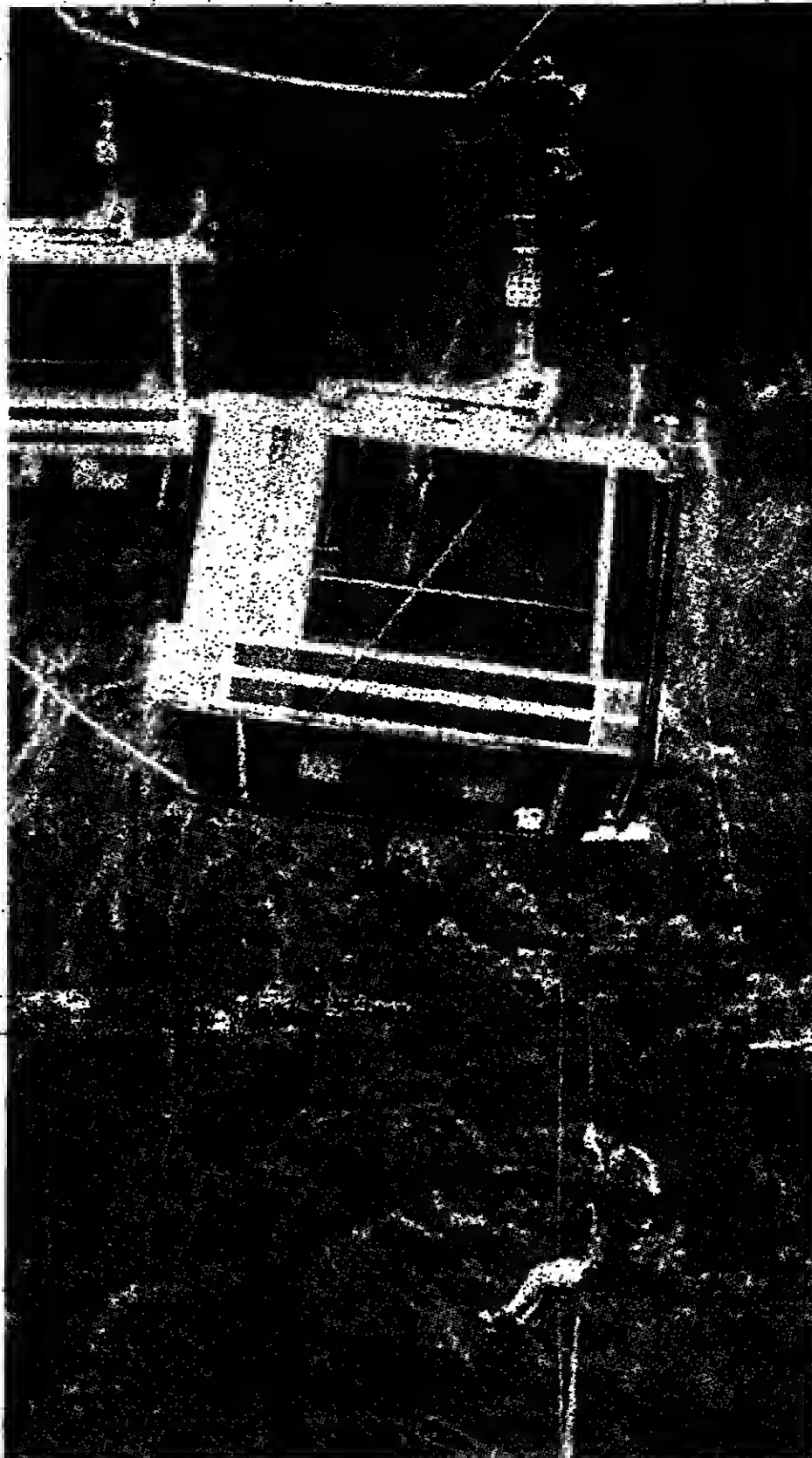
In all 33 people from three cars on the 40-car ride were rescued using hydraulic lifts while others had to be lowered to the ground using ropes and harnesses.

A senior fireman said: "Although the winds were gusting quite sharply at times and swinging the gondolas back and forth there was never any real danger, though many of the people, including old ladies and babes-in-arms, were understandably anxious and a few were near panic."

One of those rescued was Mr Trevor Rowbottom from Scunthorpe who was trapped 100 ft up with his wife and two sons.

"Descending from the gondola was the most frightening thing I have ever experienced."

Continued on page 16, col 4



Swinging to safety: A passenger being lowered from a stranded cable car at Alton Towers.

Tibetan toll 600 over 18 months

From Catherine Sampson Peking

Riots in Tibet have cost hundreds of lives since the uprisings two years ago and the recent unrest left 40 Chinese policemen dead or wounded. Major-General Zhang Shaosong, the political commissar in charge of martial law in Lhasa, said yesterday.

His revelation, together with details of 21 riots since 1987, seems to indicate that China sees a grave threat to its stability. Unity in the face of national crisis is becoming the catchphrase of this year's session of the National People's Congress (Parliament).

Details of petitions against corrupt officials, low living standards and inflation in China paint a very different picture from that presented by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the then Prime Minister, two years ago.

General Zhang said that 600 people had been killed in Tibetan riots since September 1987. The Chinese authorities claim the rioters had guns in the latest riots in Lhasa, but no Western witness has confirmed this.

The general said pro-independence activities were growing in strength. "Underground activities" were giving way to demonstrations, and scattered disturbances to organized sabotage. Tibetans in other provinces were being incited to riot. Separatists had gone underground now.

General Zhang was out of Lhasa in displaying signs of a new openness. Mr Wang Fang, the Minister of Security, told the annual session of Parliament of price rises, falling living standards and increasing crime rates.

Mr Fang said that in the countryside, peasants had demonstrated and presented petitions complaining about corrupt officials as well as rising prices. In the cities, the main complaint was inflation.

Crime increased by 45 per cent in 1988, with more than 200 policemen killed on duty, and a further 5,691 injured, Mr Fang said.

TV sex series will be seen at 6.30pm

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The most intimate guide to love and sex for young people to appear on British television is being planned for peak viewing time on Channel 4 later this year.

The 13-part series — called "Survivors' Guide" — and aimed at 17 to 27 year-olds — will tackle sensitive issues like the female orgasm, pleasing a partner and avoiding Aids.

Although simulated sex is ruled out, the series makers hope to include detailed discussions of sexual techniques. The programmes, which Channel 4 describe as a young person's passport to survival in the 1990s, will be shown at 6.30pm — well before the 9pm "watershed" hour.

Mrs Eleanor Stephens, who is making the series, said it would "go further than anything ever shown on TV."

The series has received provisional approval from the Independent Broadcasting Authority but the proposed timing has infuriated watchdogs and last night Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, said it could do much harm.

Mrs Stephens, the British pioneer of candid group discussions on sex in the 1970s, is head of an independent film company which is working on a pilot programme. The series is due to start in May.

She said yesterday: "I see no point in tackling subjects unless it is done frankly. Love-making causes all kinds of problems, especially for those in our target audience."

The programmes will feature young people talking about their problems to others

Continued on page 16, col 1



HOLD ON
TO YOUR HAIG

A FINE OLD SCOTCH WHISKY SINCE 1827

Soft line over nuclear update

Members of Labour's defence policy review team believe the United States may be prepared to compromise on the timing of a decision to modernize short-range nuclear missiles in Europe and will insist on a firm commitment being made at the Nato summit in Brussels in May.

Review team visit, page 2

Gerald Kaufman, page 10

Contra aid deal

President Bush agreed a deal with congressional leaders for non-military funding to the Nicaraguan Contras Page 6

NEWS ROUNDUP

Guildhall speech by Gorbachov

President Gorbachov will make a keynote speech in the City of London's Guildhall during his visit to Britain next week. The Soviet leader is expected to express hopes for global disarmament and raise human rights issues.

The speech, together with his meeting with the Queen at Windsor Castle, will be the main events of his visit from April 5 to 7.

Mr Gorbachov is expected to hold long talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and to attend lunch and a banquet at Downing Street during the visit, which was postponed from last autumn after the Armenian earthquake. He is also due to visit a factory and see the sights of London.

His wife, Raisa, will carry out separate engagements, accompanied by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Maze escaper in court

Joseph Gerard Donnelly, one of 38 members of the Provisional IRA who escaped from the Maze jail in September 1983, appeared before a Belfast court on Thursday night on 17 charges relating to the escape, during which a prison officer, was killed. Donnelly, aged 28, from the Ardoyne area of Belfast, jumped bail in April 1987 before trial on charges about the escape and had been on the run since. He was arrested in a raid on his sister's home. The charges relate to false imprisonment and hijacking.

Chase death inquiry

Essex police started an inquiry yesterday after a youth aged 18 died after crashing his van as it was being pursued by a police car. He is the eighth person to die as a result of police pursuits in the past two months. Mr Nicholas Searle, from Saddlewood Road, Chelmsford, died in Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, after he ignored Police Constable Dave Worsfold's flashing light and went through a red light. New police guidelines mean that only drivers with advanced training will be allowed to pursue suspect vehicles at high speed.

Nuclear waste tour

Guided tours of the intermediate-level nuclear waste store at the Dounreay atomic plant, in Caithness, are to begin in June. Mr Gerry Jordan, director at Dounreay, which has been shortlisted by Nirex, the government agency for the disposal of nuclear waste, as a possible dump site, said: "Once people can see for themselves exactly what it is, and how we can handle it, I'm sure their concern over nuclear waste will be greatly diminished".

Church fights alcohol

Churches should do more to fight the growing problem of alcohol misuse, the Church in Wales said yesterday. It recommends, in a working party report, the opening of church buildings for Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and the introduction of church care and support schemes for problem drinkers. Recent statistics show that Wales has a higher percentage of heavy drinkers than England, and a 23 per cent higher death rate from cirrhosis.

Pole walk abandoned

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, yesterday abandoned his third attempt to walk to the North Pole unsupported after covering less than 10 miles in two days. Sir Ranulph and his companion, Dr Mike Stroud, claimed to be fit, a spokesman said. "Quite simply the surface conditions were appalling", Sir Ranulph said. He was determined to try again.

US takes soft line on nuclear update

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The United States government appears ready to compromise on the timing of the key decision to modernize short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

Senior Labour Party politicians who have been in Washington this week say the Americans are taking a softer line than Mrs Margaret Thatcher and are not insisting on a firm decision at the Nato summit in Brussels in May.

The modernization issue looks likely to be the biggest stumbling block at the summit. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany wants the decision to develop a successor to the ageing Lance missile deferred until after the country's next election.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, who led a delegation from Labour's defence policy review team, quotes senior members of the Administration in *The Times* today as saying that the summit should produce a reaffirmation of the need for

modernization rather than a specific deployment decision. Mr Kaufman says the Americans, while wanting a decision in favour of modernization, are "more rational" in approach than Mrs Thatcher.

The defence team returned heartened by the commitments given by the Americans, led by General Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, that the Bush administration would build on the arms control initiatives of the Reagan era.

Labour's hopes of replacing its unilateralist policy with one of negotiated disarmament, placing Britain's weapons into the superpower talks, were further encouraged by the meetings in Washington.

Mr Kaufman quotes a senior Congressman's view that it would not be possible to begin another set of negotiations after the start talks on long-range missiles without bringing in the British and French weapons.

Gerald Kaufman, page 10

Talks pledged to allay lawyers' fears on reform

By Richard Ford, Legal Affairs Reporter

The Government is seeking to dampen the controversy over legal reforms by assuring lawyers that the Green Papers are part of a genuine consultation process.

It is being made clear to the profession that the far-reaching proposals put forward by the Lord Chancellor are "not set in stone" and that constructive and careful arguments are being listened to by the Government.

In spite of the strength of opposition to the proposals among the legal profession and particularly the Bar, Whitehall sources yesterday indicated that a Bill implementing changes is likely to be introduced in the next session of Parliament.

"This is not a government that turns tail and backs down", one minister said. It is unlikely that the Government will issue a White Paper but will proceed straight to a Bill including measures that have

taken into account some of the arguments being put forward in response to Lord Mackay of Clashfern's radical proposals to make the profession more competitive.

With the Government facing a mid-term drop in support, ministers are anxious to lower the passions that have been raised among the judiciary and leading members of the Bar before the Green Papers are debated in the House of Lords on April 7.

Forty-seven peers have put down their names to speak in the debate when the proposal are likely to come under heavy attack.

Barristers have noted, however, that the debate coincides with the final day of the visit of President Gorbachov, which is likely to result in wide coverage in the media.

"The press will be dominated by Maggie and Gorbachov. It will com-

pletely overshadow the debate", one QC said.

During the past few days both Lord Mackay and Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Solicitor General, have sought to reassure the profession that the Government is listening to their fears and arguments against the proposals.

Lord Mackay told *The Times* Forum on the Future of the Legal Profession that if those responding to the Green Papers convinced him the proposals were bad and needed to be modified, "modified they will be".

In the wake of ferocious attacks on the proposals, ministers accept that the legal profession has yet to be convinced that the Government is genuine in its desire for consultation.

A Westminster source said: "The trouble is that the legal profession has taken it that they are firm

proposals, practically a Bill, and that nothing anybody says will make the slightest difference."

"Green Papers are for consultation and the Government is genuine in wanting consultation based on careful and constructive argument."

Ministers deny that they have been surprised at the hostility shown to the proposals, saying they expected the outcry because the Green Papers forced the profession to think deeply about future developments they would rather ignore.

They are, however, determined to prevent if possible the debate on the proposals descending into rancour and personal bitterness.

Government sources believe that if the profession accepts ministerial expressions that they are interested in genuine consultation, it will calm emotions and encourage debate among what they admit is a pro-

fession anxious and fearful about its future. But senior figures at the Bar have been dismayed at the tenor of some of the criticisms by Conservative backbenchers of their campaign of opposition to the proposals.

They have been annoyed at allegations that they are "muzzling" opposition among barristers to their campaign and at the claim by a Conservative MP, Mr Timothy Devlin, that they are compiling a file on him and other MPs intended for use in the future.

Last night Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, chairman of the Bar, would not comment on the anger felt among barristers at the claims made in the House of Commons by Conservative barrister MPs.

But he said of the allegations that the Bar was drawing up files on MPs: "I am just dismayed they are being made. They are totally and absolutely untrue."

North Sea platform shut after explosion

By Kerry Gill

An investigation began yesterday after an explosion on a North Sea gas platform 155 miles north-east of Aberdeen.

More than 300 men on the Marathon Brae B installation were ordered to muster stations as rescue helicopters from the Scottish mainland and the North of England were scrambled.

The platform was later declared safe. Marathon, the platform's operator, said the alert lasted 45 minutes.

The explosion occurred in an electric motor in the platform's number four module. It is used to export gas condensates through the Brae-Forties pipeline to Cruden Bay, south of Peterhead.

A water deluge system was automatically set off and production immediately shut down. No fire resulted.

Company investigators and an official from the Department of Energy went to the platform early yesterday to begin inquiries. Marathon said full production was expected to resume over the weekend.

The incident comes after a series of emergencies in the North Sea oil and gas industry since Christmas. On Christmas Eve, fierce storms caused a storage tanker to break free from moorings, leading to the shutdown of three fields. Shell has been losing up to £1

million a day since the closure of its Auk and Fulmar fields. Britoil's Clyde field was the third affected.

The Brent Delta platform was shut down on New Year's Day, when a vessel in the gas compression module ruptured. A flash in an oil and gas tank on the Ninian Northern platform caused an alert in which 145 men were mustered before it was declared safe.

The West Stadfrill drilling rig was ordered to shut down by the Department of Energy after an inspector discovered a number of safety defects early last month.

More than 100 North Sea workers were airlifted from the Dunlin Alpha platform later when oil pressure suddenly increased in one of the drilling wells.

Earlier this month, oil workers were airlifted from the North West Hutton platform when a leak was discovered in a gas riser connecting the installation to the Western Leg Gas System, 80 miles from Shetland.

Meanwhile, the operation to topple the remains of Occidental's Piper Alpha platform was postponed yesterday because of stormy weather. It may resume tomorrow.

The inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster, in which 167 men died last July, is to resume on April 10.

March against rail link

CHRIS HARRIS



Strong winds roared like a passing express train over Swanley recreation ground in Kent yesterday as more than 2,000 people marched through the town in protest against the Channel Tunnel high speed rail link (Ronald Faux writes).

The Bank holiday weather did nothing to cool the strength of feeling against British Rail's preferred route. In a field on the edge of town overlooking the point where the link would emerge into open countryside, speakers called the line a destroyer of the environment.

Mr Mark Watkinson, Conservative MP for Sevenoaks, told the rally that the battle with British Rail had only just begun. It should now live up to the promise to have real consultation over changes. "And by changes it must mean increased tunnelling", he said.

Posters opposing the proposals proliferated in a quiet cul-de-sac of detached homes overlooking where the line would surface. One described a house there as a "Desirable residence: Worth inestimable, value nil".

Fusion energy scientists defend their claims

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The British and American scientists who claim to have solved the problem of harnessing fusion energy, and thus opened the door to a limitless source of power, yesterday defended their results against the restrained scepticism of the scientific establishment.

The two scientists, Professor Martin Fleischmann of Southampton University, and Professor Stan Pons, of the University of Utah, are under siege because they have released an outline of their experiments before publication of the full details.

The announcement by the University of Utah contained too few technical details for an expert independent assessment.

Professor Pons, who was a research student under Professor Fleischmann at Southampton, said it was an idea

that began "for the fun of it and to satisfy scientific curiosity".

The scientists claim to have achieved what is known as cold fusion. Most attempts to achieve controlled hydrogen fusion have assumed that hydrogen must first be heated to a temperature near that of the Sun.

The power generated in fusion is the huge amount of surplus nuclear energy that is released when two atoms of a light element, such as deuterium or tritium, are forced together to form a heavier one.

Thousands of millions of pounds have been poured into attempts over the past 30 years to harness fusion energy, the process that powers the Sun and provides the destructive forces of the hydrogen bomb.

It has involved building extraordi-

nary machines, in which deuterium gas has first to be heated to temperatures of more than 10 million degrees Centigrade. Those incredibly high temperatures have been reached in some machines. But scientists have been unable to sustain a fusion reaction that mimics the Sun.

Now the two professors have said this has been done at room temperature in a vessel that is comparable to a car battery. The acid is replaced by deuterium-containing heavy water and the plates, or electrodes, between which the electric current flows, are made in the fusion cell from precious metals, platinum and palladium.

Powerful electric currents cause a reaction in which deuterium is absorbed by the palladium. The deuterium atoms then join together, or fuse, creating a helium atom and a release of energy.

The scientists are convinced that

fusion, rather than a conventional chemical reaction, is happening because of the very large amounts of heat released.

Professor Pons said: "We think it would be reasonable, within a short number of years, to build an electric power system".

However, Professor Fleischmann said: "A great deal of work will have to go into this. The processes involved will have to be carefully checked to see if we are right or not. But it does seem there is here a possibility of realizing sustained fusion with a relatively inexpensive device."

Spokesmen for important fusion research centres in California, Princeton, New Jersey, and the Culham Laboratories, near Oxford, were reluctant to comment formally without more details. But they expressed private doubts.

Ulster security talks sought

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was urged last night to call a meeting of politicians on the worsening security situation.

Mr John Alderdice, leader of the middle of the road Alliance Party, said the latest outbreak of murders had created an atmosphere of terror and despair.

It was time representatives of the constitutional parties got together to help the Government's fight against terrorism.

Twenty-five people have been killed by "loyalist" and republican para-military groups in Northern Ireland so far this year, 14 of them by the

IRA. The IRA's victims have included two senior RUC officers shot dead on their way back from a cross-border security meeting with the Garda in Dundalk, a republican stronghold, on Monday.

Mr Alderdice said that if the province's rival political leaders could work together to help to secure the future of Belfast shipyards, there was no reason why they could not agree to a round table security conference.

"It is time to sit back and consider whether we should not be working together on behalf of the whole community — not just on economic matters — but on the vexed

and difficult question of seeing if we can constructively work with the Government, and each other, against the men of violence."

In Whitehall it was pointed out that Mr King was always ready to meet Northern Ireland's constitutional politicians to discuss the way ahead.

Any round table conference would need clear objectives and adequate preparation, it was suggested.

It was not clear if the proposal for a conference was intended to seek a political solution or a strengthening of military effort against terrorism.

No inquiry into scientists' deaths

The Ministry of Defence yesterday ruled out an inquiry into the deaths of four scientists who worked at or had links with the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment at Malvern, Hereford and Worcester (Michael Evans writes).

Allegations that their deaths may have been related to their radar work were denied.

Dr John Clarke, the latest scientist to die, had been working on microwave research for four years. A former

colleague, Dr Tom Holland, who died five years ago, had worked in the same department.

Both men died of brain tumours.

The other two to die from the same causes at the Ministry of Defence research establishment were Wing Commander Al Cushman and Flight Lieutenant Tony Dun-

more. The ministry said it was satisfied that there were "stringent safety checks" at the research facility and there was no medical evidence to show they had died as a result of their "work environment".

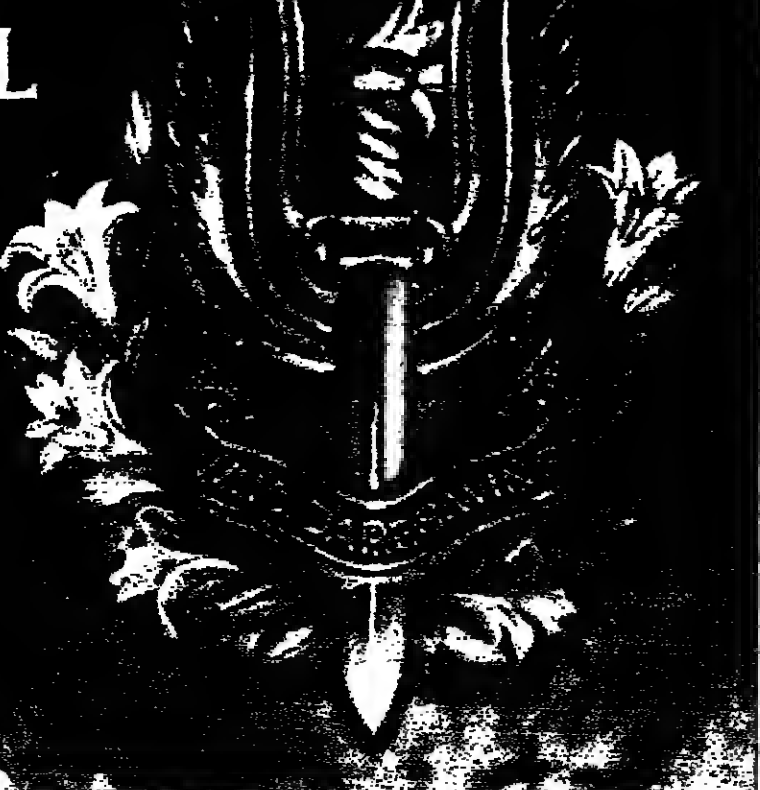
At the inquest on Clarke, aged 44, earlier this month, an open verdict was recorded after it was disclosed that three others had died in recent years.

Mrs Pearl Clarke, his widow, said she believed there must have been a radiation leak.

Drugs, murder, terrorism... but the relentless pursuit of justice is

A SEASON IN HELL

JACK HIGGINS



John Higgins 150

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Barons battle over attracting paying guests



Mr Peter de Savary (left) and the list of forthcoming attractions at "the Land of Littlecote", his 100-acre estate near Hungerford, and Mr and Mrs Kenneth King, beside details of projected events at Avebury Manor.

Sun 26th & Mon 27th March
Grand Easter Egg Hunt
From 10.30 to 12.30. A special hunt for the children to hunt through the grounds for hundreds of "Golden Eggs" and to win the magnificent prizes.

Sun 30th April & Mon 1st May
Folk Festival & Mystic Fair
Lancaster's renowned Mystic Fair returns with this year's complete re-creation. As well as traditional crafts, there will be a pageant of the King and Queen of the May and dancing around the Maypole. There will be a special performance by the Lancaster Folk Festival.

Sun 27th & Mon 28th August
Littlecote Elizabethan Fayre
Fayre with both entertaining and serious occasions, an Elizabethan dance, a "Quest of the Phoenix" and a pageant of the King and Queen of the May. There will be a special performance by the Lancaster Folk Festival.

Sun 26th & Mon 27th March
Easter Egg Hunt
From 10.30 to 12.30. A special hunt for the children to hunt through the grounds for hundreds of "Golden Eggs" and to win the magnificent prizes.

Sun 30th April & Mon 1st May
MAY DAY CELEBRATION & FOLK FESTIVAL
Lancaster's renowned Mystic Fair returns with this year's complete re-creation. As well as traditional crafts, there will be a pageant of the King and Queen of the May and dancing around the Maypole. There will be a special performance by the Lancaster Folk Festival.

Sun 27th & Mon 28th August
THE ELIZABETHAN FAYRE
On the second evening of the Lancaster Fayre, a pageant of the King and Queen of the May and dancing around the Maypole. There will be a special performance by the Lancaster Folk Festival.



NEXT WEEK

Men at work



...again. Britain's roads seem to be in a permanent state of disrepair. More than three million holes are dug in them every year, creating traffic havoc.

What are all the holes for? How well is the work done? How can it be better co-ordinated? Next week, in a two-part series, *The Times* looks into the black holes.

Time to spare over Easter? *The Times* Tournament of the Mind continues next week, with the questions.

set by Mensa, becoming more difficult. There is a £5,000 prize for the individual winner. Today's round: page 29

PORTFOLIO BOND

Two people shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Bond prize. They are Mrs Jean Joscelyne, of Winstford, near Minehead, Somerset, and Mr H. Garrett, of Cotton, Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Portfolio Bond resumes on Tuesday after the Easter break.

Child benefit payment may stop for better-off mothers

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

The Government is considering stopping the payment of child benefit to better-off working mothers.

Ministers, who are drawing up proposals for the next election manifesto, are examining alternatives to the commitment to pay it to all mothers. These include aiming the benefit at families in need and those in the lower and middle tax brackets and even restricting it to non-working mothers.

The ministers believe a firm pledge in the manifesto to give more help to low-income families will quell the expected outcry from many grassroot Conservatives who want to retain child benefit as a universal payment to all mothers that is cheap to administer.

Underlying the review is the almost unanimous recognition among Conservative MPs and party workers that there is no justification for mothers in the higher tax bracket getting child benefit.

The changes to separate taxation for men and women and the computerization of

benefits will also make it easier to pinpoint those families in need in the 1990s.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Security, is not planning a big reform of the benefit system because the last changes took effect only last year.

But a senior government source confirmed that all the different forms and levels of benefit are being looked at with "targeting" the key word. The main emphasis, he said, is "to make sure they go to those in need — and that includes child benefit".

Child benefit has been frozen at £7.25 per child for the past two years. An announcement is expected in October on whether to update it in April 1990.

Although there will be strong pressure from some Conservatives for Mr Moore to raise it next year because inflation is running at 7.8 per cent, it is understood that he will use next month's revolt on the benefit to test the strength of feeling before making a final decision. The revolt

will come from a group of Conservative backbenchers, led by Mr Timothy Raison, MP for Aylesbury, and Mr Robin Squire, MP for Hornchurch, who have tabled an amendment to the Social Security Bill calling for child benefit to rise in line with tax allowances in April 1990.

Mr Squire said any attempt by ministers to restrict the number of families receiving the benefit would be "politically and socially disastrous".

It would be "lunatic" of the Government to drop its commitment in the next election manifesto. He argued that targeting the money on the low paid will merely create another disincentive to work and increase the poverty trap.

In the 1987 manifesto, the Conservatives pledged: "Child benefit will continue to be paid as now, and direct to the mother". But the interpretation of the controversial off-the-record briefing by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to Sunday newspaper journalists last November, was that no

universal benefit, except the state pension, is sacrosanct.

One objection to breaking the universality rule is that only 50 per cent of those entitled to family credit are claiming it.

Mr Moore has ordered an extensive advertising campaign next month, estimated to cost £7 million, to drive home to parents on low incomes that they may be entitled to claim family credit, which is their main income support since last year's social security reforms.

His officials believe those most in need are already receiving family credit. But a better take-up figure will strengthen the Government's case for limiting child benefit.

The final fate of child benefit will also be influenced by the report from a working party into all forms of family support, set up by leading Conservative women.

The report is expected to be paid away from demanding it is paid to all mothers regardless of income after the next election.

By Robin Young

The battle of the property barons has been joined in Wiltshire. Mr Peter de Savary, whose 100-acre estate at Littlecote near Hungerford is marketed as "the Land of Littlecote", a time capsule of living history, is suing Mr Kenneth King, of Avebury Manor, near by, for plagiarism.

Local people say that both have been riding roughshod over local history, tradition and planning law.

Mr de Savary, whose property companies own both Land's End and John o' Groats, claims that Mr King has stolen the ideas and designs for his promotional booklet, marketing circular and booking form from material to which Littlecote has copyright.

Mr de Savary is also enraged because he believes Avebury Manor's announced plan of special benefits resembles his own.

Both historic homes are holding Easter egg hunts this weekend, an idea Littlecote admits having borrowed from Leeds Castle in Kent. On May 1 Littlecote is holding a folk festival and mystic fair while at Avebury there is a May Day celebration and folk festival.

Littlecote is holding a steam rally and Victorian fair for two days starting on June 3 while Avebury has a similar event the week before. Avebury will have a fun run when Littlecote holds its charity race, and in September both plan vintage car rallies.

Yesterday was the first day of opening at Avebury Manor, where Mr King faces prosecution by Kennet District Council for allegedly altering parts of his Grade I listed home without permission.

He has also been served with 22 enforcement orders for claimed breaches of planning law and notices under building

regulations which have prevented him finishing most of his projected schemes.

A couple of years ago it was Mr de Savary at Littlecote who was being prosecuted by Kennet District Council for starting to turn the estate into a theme park without planning permission. He paid his fines and got planning permission retrospectively. His plans are now fully realized.

To the consternation of the villagers in Avebury, who receive 250,000 visitors every year to the prehistoric stone circle which surrounds their homes, Mr King has advertised the manor nationally and announced that he hopes to attract 100,000 visitors paying £3.50 each for adults and £2.50 for children.

In the first hour yesterday he got three. The first couple through the gates were Mr Paul Knowler, the Littlecote's marketing manager.

Film tycoon is criticized by ramblers

By Edward Gorman

Mr David Putnam, the film producer, is criticized today by the chairman of the 68,000-member Ramblers' Association.

Mr Christopher Hall, in his foreword to the annual report, issues a warning that the space and freedom for the general public to walk in the countryside are not increasing.

He says campaigning for more freedom must take second place to battling

to save existing paths, and he attacks planned government legislation which could challenge footpaths on the grounds that they were marked on maps by mistake. But Mr Hall is most damning of "the Putnam syndrome".

"As more and more *nouveaux riches* move into their quaint old desirable properties", Mr Hall writes, "more of them seek to close or divert paths passing through or by their residences, as film tycoon David

Putnam did last year".

Mr Hall's attack comes in the wake of a public inquiry last April after a long-running and bitter controversy over an ancient footpath which runs past the film producer's sixteenth century country retreat at Little Somerford, Wiltshire.

Mr Putnam, chairman of the Society for the Protection of Rural England, won the right to divert the path which he argued was a threat to his privacy and security.

Surgeons outline new heart operation

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first operation in Britain using an artificial heart made from muscle taken from the patient's chest is expected to be carried out before the end of the year.

Details of the planned treatment will be outlined by Professor Magdi Yacoub, the pioneering heart transplant surgeon, and Mr Charles Pattison, of the Brompton Hospital and National Heart and Lung Institute, at an international conference, Cardiology '89, in London next month.

It has become possible because of a discovery by a British-American research team led by Professor Larry Stephenson, at the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Stanley Salmons, of Liverpool University.

The idea of using a patient's own skeletal muscle to repair a damaged heart

was first considered 25 years ago. In theory, it offered an ideal answer to the problem of tissue rejection of donated organs, and skeletal muscle (the muscle attached to the bones) is much stronger than its counterpart in the heart.

But heart muscle is far more fatigue resistant, enabling a healthy organ to beat non-stop about two and half billion times in a lifetime — 100,000 times every 24 hours to circulate almost 2,000 gallons of blood a day.

Skeletal muscle would get cramp under such a burden, so the need for a tireless type of muscle tissue thwarted early efforts to adapt it for grafting.

The possibilities were revived when Professor Salmons and his colleagues developed a process for conditioning skeletal muscle so that it could be adapted for the heart's sustained pump-

ing work. The conditioning, which takes six weeks, makes the skeletal muscle capable of continual contraction.

The work on conditioning, funded by the British Heart Foundation and the United States National Institute of Health, has enabled heart surgeons to devise several new approaches to remedying heart defects, which have been successful in treating animals.

One of the simpler methods of using skeletal muscle, to be described to the conference, is to wrap one end of muscle from the chest wall around part of the failing heart. The other end remains attached to its blood and nerve supplies and is stimulated by a special pacemaker.

A more difficult approach, being perfected by Professor Salmons's group, is the fabrication of a complete chamber of the heart from the non-organ tissue.

Evergreen Mini all set for a lead-free future

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

The Mini has been given a new lease of life by the switch to unleaded petrol — and improved fuel consumption figures mean the car could turn out to be an "evergreen".

The car, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year, is the cheapest to run in Britain using the new clean fuel.

From this month, versions of the Mini have been returned on the assembly lines at Longbridge, Birmingham, to run on unleaded without further adjustment.

Critics had said performance and fuel economy could be impaired by unleaded petrol but Longbridge engineers have produced figures to show that the Mini is even more economical on the clean fuel.

The automatic version of the Mini will now top 50 miles to the gallon on

unleaded compared with 46.1mpg on leaded at a constant speed of 50mph. For urban motoring, the manual will do 46.1mpg compared with old figures of 43.9mpg.

Rover said last night that the Mini was already the cheapest car on the road costing 15.18p a mile to run more than 20,000 miles on leaded fuel.

The introduction of unleaded versions would make it even better value, the company said.

A spokesman said: "The use of unleaded petrol has been designed into the Mini which is why there have been these substantial performance improvements."

"It is still astonishing though that a 30-year-old car can outperform its rivals

after all this time." The Mini has faced the prospect of being phased out for the past decade.

But with production at Longbridge running at 800-a-week and the model a cult in important export markets such as France and Japan, the car looks set to keep going on.

Meanwhile, scientists at BP are studying a plan to produce a petrol which could be used by cars not able to take fully unleaded fuel and which would cut lead emissions by 25 per cent.

The belief that producing a petrol which is a mix of leaded and unleaded fuel would overcome the problems of some cars which, although adjusted for unleaded petrol, still have periodically to use leaded to reduce engine wear.

Magic mushrooms and Little People

By Ronald Faux

The Little People of Irish folklore may have sprung not from myth but from the hallucinatory effects of the so-called "magic mushroom" *psilocybe semillanacea*, consumed two centuries ago by peasants in crude hot houses.

That unromantic notion, ranking the key spirits of Ireland with pink elephants and unidentified flying objects, comes in the spring issue of *Archaeology Ireland* in an article entitled "Sweathouses: Puzzling and Disappearing".

Mr Anthony Weir, specialist in early Ireland and its history, laments that the stone-built sweathouses found in Co Leitrim have become endangered buildings because they are unprotected in the republic.

Only two are preserved as amenities in Northern Ireland.

According to Weir they were used as primitive saunas by the peasantry

throughout Ireland and may have been connected with the consumption of the "magic mushrooms".

Soon after Boswell and Johnson strode through the Scottish Highlands and were divided in their view of what they found, a Frenchman, M Latocnyne, walked across Ireland and recorded the first description of a sweathouse in Co Donegal.

It was a building with a social purpose, heated like an oven and used as a cure for rheumatic pains and other diseases. "They heat it with turf in the way such a construction would be heated for the purpose of baking bread", M Latocnyne wrote.

When it was hot, four or five men or women, entirely naked, crept in through a little opening which was immediately closed with a piece of wood covered with dung. They remained sealed in for four or five hours. One theory suggested that

the sweathouses were a legacy of the Vikings although that likelihood had been rather discounted by the absence of sweathouses in the western isles of Scotland, where the Norse influence was particularly strong.

Certainly, sweating ceremonies were known to have been held in Siberia in traditional circular tents where the Fly Aguric mushroom was also consumed. Mr Weir points out that Irish sweat houses were most popular in autumn when the "magic mushrooms" were abundant.

Hence the notion that the Little People of Irish folklore could be descended from the mists of hallucination rather than time.

Mr Weir said that even young Irishmen he had talked to who had taken the magic mushrooms afterwards believed they could see fairies.

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Public confusion rises on salmonella crisis

Ministry officials refuse to clarify food checklist

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government's information service has refused to respond to a 20-point food safety checklist put to it by *The Times*, claiming the information is already in the "public domain".

The checklist sought to clarify public statements made during the recent salmonella controversy. Public access to the facts can be measured by the Consumers' Association's reaction to the checklist. Of the 20 statements, it had sufficient information to pass comment on only six, while questioning a seventh.

The Department of Health's and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's refusal to clarify points is all the more surprising as it comes after an attack in Parliament by a junior minister and a senior Conservative backbencher on "knowalls and busy-bodies" accused of scaremongering.

It also coincides with a poll by the National Consumer Council showing that a third of consumers feel they do not have enough information to

be confident about the food they buy. Nearly two thirds believe the Government should be providing that information.

The attitudes of the department and the ministry have been criticized by the Consumers' Association, the London Food Commission and the NCC, which said the ministries had "clearly failed" in their duty to consumers.

The *Times*'s request for clarification was made after Mr Richard Ryder, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mr Jerry Wiggins, chairman of the select committee on agriculture, criticized television and some food experts for disseminating propaganda and "flimsy advice".

The Ministry of Agriculture said: "We have said it all many times before". The Department of Health said the information was "all out there" but refused to allow a *Times* reporter to visit its information office to be shown where the data were

available. Eventually, the ministries relented on one of the 20 points. After repeated requests, they denied a statement that the salmonella epidemic started with imports of fish meal.

The Ministry of Agriculture said information could be found in the joint memorandum submitted to the select committee on agriculture by the ministry and the Department of Health. Examination of the document shows that to be far from true. Indeed, the memorandum was said by the committee to put "a convenient gloss on events".

Another course recommended by the ministries was to consult the committee's 371-page report and evidence — available at £20.10.

Ms Anna Bradley, head of the Consumers' Association's food and health group, said: "Given the degree of consumer confusion over food, the Government is honour bound to take every opportunity to clarify the situation." She said she suspected that

much important information was not in the public domain.

Before the salmonella-eggs controversy, most of the information on salmonella and eggs was not public. "We asked to see it and were told no."

The situation had improved, but much information remained confidential. Examples included communicable disease reports issued by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Dr Tim Lang, director of the London Food Commission, described the ministries' refusal to respond to the checklist as deeply regrettable and evidence of a new policy of official silence. He said many organizations had failed to get adequate information from the ministries.

"They are saying nothing and hoping it will all go away. Ministries that should be answerable to the public and which are paid for by you and me are refusing to clarify genuine causes of public concern."

When in South Shields



For the first time in 16 centuries, the Roman forts of Arbeia, in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, are to be patrolled by guards in Roman regalia. A group calling itself Cohors Quarta Gallorum has been established by South Tyneside council and goes on duty today at the third century military settlement. On guard are Miss Alex Croom (centre), the cohort secretary, and (from left) Danny Luther, Paul Carrick and Kevin Inkster.

Union's equality action plan

By Roland Ridd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The National Union of Civil and Public Servants is asking its members to endorse a controversial programme of positive action for women, ethnic minorities and homosexuals.

The executive of the second-biggest Civil Service union announced yesterday that it will put the action plan to a national vote at its annual conference in May.

Union officials want government departments to nego-

tiate agreements ensuring the prevention of sexual harassment, making it a disciplinary offence.

The officials say child-care provision needs to be improved as a matter of urgency, with a comprehensive network in place within five years. Maternity leave should be extended immediately to 18 weeks.

Under the proposals, all reporting officers will be trained to avoid making

discriminatory assumptions. Programmes will be developed to ensure that people from ethnic minorities are recruited and promoted to all grades in the Civil Service.

The union officials want all Civil Service posts opened to those who have disabilities. Managers and employees will also be asked to include consideration of issues affecting lesbians and gay men, with partners' rights recognized for all employees.

Fowler is accused over TV unions

By Kevin Eason

The Government was accused last night of suppressing a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission claimed to clear film and television unions of restrictive labour practices.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said the 11-month inquiry amounted to an embarrassing "slap in the face" for the Government.

Ministers took the unprecedented step of calling in the commission last March after criticizing the film and television industry for being the "last bastion of trade union restrictive practices".

The investigation came after disputes including a year-long strike by technicians at TV-am. At least seven unions were interviewed.

They included the Musicians' Union, the actors' union, Equity, and the two most powerful in the industry — the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, which has 30,000 members, and the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, with 28,000.

The report was delivered to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, in February. The Department of Employment confirmed yesterday that he was considering the findings.

However, Mr Willis challenged Mr Fowler to publish the report immediately to reveal its conclusions on labour practices in the industry and in particular the post-entry closed shop.

Film and television is a key area still operating compulsory union membership for workers joining the industry.

TUC leaders say that the Government pre-empted the commission's report by issuing its Green Paper, *Removing Barriers to Employment*, without releasing the commission findings for discussion first.

Mr Willis, in a letter to Mr Fowler, said: "The report has been in your possession for six weeks. Its conclusions are of vital and direct relevance to the issues now being advanced in the Green Paper."

"I hope you publish it without delay. In present circumstances, the Government stands accused of suppressing a report which contradicts its earlier claims."

Questions that cannot be answered

The checklist and Consumers' Association answers are as follows: The *Times* Britain is facing the worst salmonella epidemic on record.

Consumers' Association: This is an academic question: what constitutes an epidemic?

T: One egg in 7,000 is infected with salmonella.

CA: We don't know.

T: At least one person a week dies from eating salmonella-infected eggs.

CA: We don't know.

T: Although people are eating fewer eggs and probably cooking them longer, salmonella poisoning is increasing by 15 per cent compared with last year.

CA: We don't know.

T: The true incidence of salmonella poisoning may be 100 times the number of reported cases.

CA: Yes — or it may be as little as 10 times.

T: The salmonella epidemic began a decade ago with cheap imports of South American fish meal.

CA: We don't know.

T: Scientific advisers tried to introduce safeguards then, but because of pressure from industry, coupled with the extra

cost of properly sterilizing the feed, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food rejected their advice.

CA: Yes — we understand that to be the case.

T: Salmonella enteritidis cases increased six-fold between 1982 and 1987, yet no action was taken until late in 1988.

CA: We don't know.

T: One in five UK flocks is heavily infected.

CA: We don't know.

T: Very few flocks infected with salmonella have been destroyed.

CA: We don't know.

T: There were no prosecutions after a ministry survey in 1987 found that a quarter of protein processing plants were infected.

CA: We don't know.

T: A contributory factor to the spread of salmonella enteritidis phase four was diseased chicken carcasses in chicken feed. Such carcasses are still used.

CA: Yes, we understand this to be true.

T: No research has been done to confirm the claim that free-range eggs are more liable to be infected with salmonella.

CA: Not exactly: no proven research has been carried out.

T: The UK breeding flock is genetically inbred and this is linked to the spread of salmonella enteritidis.

CA: We don't know.

T: Bacteria capable of growth in refrigerated foods may be responsible for up to 40 per cent of food poisoning in Britain.

CA: We don't know.

T: Most fridges operate at temperatures conducive to the growth of listeria.

CA: Yes, this is probably true.

T: The cook-chill system recommended by the Department of Health is vulnerable to listeria infection and extending it to hospitals poses dangers for people in a high-risk category.

CA: Yes, this is probably true.

T: The department has repeatedly rejected evidence linking listeria in food to the rising incidence of listeriosis.

CA: We don't know.

T: The Agricultural and Food Research Council has cut its workforce by a third and is preparing to lay off more staff, and cut food research by £2.1 million a year.

CA: We don't know.

T: Only 10 per cent of British abattoirs meet licensing requirements to export meat to other EEC countries.

CA: We don't know.

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TUC officials fear exam boycott may split dons' union

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Leading trade union officials fear that the lecturers' union involved in a protracted boycott of examinations may irrevocably split as large numbers of academics defect to moderate unions.

According to sources close to the national executive of the Trades Union Congress, many lecturers are unwilling to continue the boycott, which threatens the careers of 70,000 students due to sit finals this summer.

The Professional Association of Teachers, which doubled its membership to more than 40,000 between 1982 and 1987 as a result of disaffection with striking teachers, said yesterday there had been a substantial increase in the level of interest in joining from academics.

Dr John Andrews, the association's assistant general secretary, has had more than 500 enquiries from academics in the past few weeks.

"That might not sound very much but since we have only a handful of university academics on our books, the increase is startling", he said.

The association recently launched a recruiting drive in the tertiary education sector. Dr Andrews said the Association of University Teachers' executive rejection of a 6 per cent pay offer for 1989-90 and 0.5 per cent for last year was "perfect for our recruiting campaign".

However, several regional offices of the AUT reported that more academics had chosen to join the union than had left because of the exam boycott. This week the National Union of Students announced that while it sup-

ported the academics' case for more pay, other options were open to dons, such as setting but not marking examinations and taking strike action, which would be less damaging to students.

Members of the Association of University Teachers will vote on whether to continue the boycott on April 17. An increasing number of universities are making contingency plans to award degrees without examinations - though some are unable to do so because of restrictive university statutes and charters.

The National Union of Students rejected the award of degrees by panels of assessors or on the basis of course work because those involved methods for which students had not prepared.

Bath University said yesterday that staff in several schools had agreed to set exams and that the university planned to reschedule disrupted tests. However, there was "no intention of awarding degrees by any other methods".

A number of local unions have adopted a more moderate stance. The local branches of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge have agreed to set final and other summer examinations but will withhold marks while the dispute continues.

At Surrey, a senior university source said discussions over the recent pay offer were "very amicable" and examinations were expected to go ahead as normal. At York, Newcastle, London, Leicester, Belfast and Bradford, spokesmen said the deadlines for summer examinations were distant enough for vice-chancellors to await the outcome of the lecturers' ballot.

This week Leeds University students were sent home with a letter from Mr J J Walsh, the university registrar, advising them that if the boycott continued there was no practical way of awarding degrees and that damage to the careers of graduates would be permanent.

Nottingham University said its finalists might find themselves in a similar position.

While dons at St Andrews have accepted the vice-chancellors' offer, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Bristol, Keele, Birmingham and Warwick all plan to allow degrees to be awarded by external examiners.

Artist's ode to Shelley



Louise Vines, the artist, perching on a ladder, dwarfed by the mighty oak tree she has just finished painting on the side of a house in Poland Street in Soho, central London, where the poet Shelley once lived. Her painting, inspired by Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind", is the first work of its kind to be painted on a listed building in London. The painting, 48ft by 34ft, has the support of English Heritage, The Soho Society and Westminster Arts Council. It complements the architectural features of the building and the surrounding area.

Broadcasting Press Guild awards

Death on the Rock 'best documentary'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Three radio and television programmes that have infuriated the Government were awarded broadcasting journalism prizes yesterday.

"Death on the Rock", *Tumbledown*, and *My Country, Right or Wrong* were honoured by the Broadcasting Press Guild, whose 90 members write about television and radio in the national, regional and trade press.

"Death on the Rock", the Thames Television documentary about the killing of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar, was screened in spite of vehement protests by the Government.

The programme, which was cleared of most ministerial criticisms by an independent inquiry, was voted the best single documentary.

Tumbledown, the dramatized story of Lieutenant Robert Lawrence, badly injured in the Falklands, was bitterly criticized by the Ministry of Defence and shown by the BBC only after editing. It was voted best single drama.

Both programmes won awards last Sunday from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (Bafta) in London.

My Country, Right or Wrong, a BBC Radio 4 series about the British security system, attracted an injunction brought by the Attorney General, which delayed transmission - although the programmes had been passed by the D-Notice Committee.

The Broadcasting Press Guild said the series made an outstanding contribution to radio.

Channel 4's drama series, *A Very British Coup*, about the security services' efforts to

oust a left-wing British Prime Minister, was voted best drama series. Ray McNally, who played the Prime Minister, was named best actor.

The late Radio 2 presenter Ray Moore was given a posthumous award for the pleasure and entertainment he gave to his listeners.

The RSPCA has protested to the producers of *EastEnders* for the "casual treatment" of dog fighting in the soap opera.

Ali and Mehmet Osman, two characters in the series, were seen with American pit bull terriers in a recent episode. Mr Gavin Grant, the charity's public relations director, said yesterday:

"Apart from one or two expressions of distaste, there has been no condemnation from the residents of Albert Square and far from there being any legal retribution, the only outcome seems to have been a win of several hundred pounds by Mehmet", he added.

He has written to Mr Mike Gibbon, the producer of *EastEnders*, complaining about the portrayal of dogfighting.

"In a series that has dealt sensitively with other criminal activities such as rape and murder, where the perpetrator has paid the penalty for his crime, it is unbelievable that dog fighting is being featured as apparently no more than a slightly suspect hobby", Mr Grant said.

The RSPCA wants the *EastEnders* production team to develop the story to a proper conclusion so viewers will be in no doubt about the barbarity of dog fighting and the legal penalties for becoming involved.

Teacher wins time-off battle

By Kerry Gill

A schoolteacher ought to have been allowed time off to attend an important union meeting, an industrial tribunal ruled in Glasgow yesterday.

The tribunal heard that Central Regional Council's education department had refused Mr Roy Robertson, an official of the National Union of Schoolteachers and Union of Women Teachers, permission to attend the meeting last August as it would have been disruptive to pupils at the start of the school session.

His employers also said that the refusal was because Mr Robertson had already had a considerable amount of time

off. He was seeking a ruling by the tribunal that he was entitled to time off on August 25 last year under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act, 1978.

The council argued that the NUS/UNT was not a recognized trade union in the terms of the Act.

However, the tribunal ruled that the union was recognized by the education authority and represented on the Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee, the national negotiating body.

A department official also gave evidence saying that he would expect Mr Robertson to

represent his members at disciplinary proceedings.

The union asked the council to allow Mr Robertson, a teacher at Alva Primary School, to attend a meeting on a staffing review and proposed legislation for school boards.

Mr Alex Watson, deputy director of education, said if the meeting were so important, it could have been held in the summer holidays.

The tribunal said that over the past five years Mr Robertson had been given time off to attend union meetings at precisely the same time. It ruled that the request for time off should have been granted.

£250,000 quest to design 'thinking' computer

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

British scientists have been awarded a government contract to design a machine that can mimic the human mind to solve problems.

Researchers at Imperial College, London, have been given £250,000 by the Department of Trade and Industry to develop microchips which consist of thousands of circuits that are interconnected like brain cells.

These electronic equivalents of brain cells are called neural networks.

Under the three-year contract a number of special neural networks will be designed and interlinked to create a neural computer. The project has gone to an internationally recognized pioneering research team working with Professor Igor Aleksander. Their research has fo-

cused on ways of devising new machines that solve problems that are difficult even for existing supercomputers such as image recognition, which includes recognizing faces or identifying the geographical features on a map.

With their so-called "number-crunching" power, modern computers carry out millions of complex calculations a second. But it is of little use in trying to imitate the way people form a visual image in their mind from picturing the signals they receive from the eye.

Professor Aleksander was one of the team of British scientists who first demonstrated a practical "neural computer", the Wisard, which was able to pick out engineering compo-

nents from a production line after being trained what to look for, like a human quality control engineer.

Research into neural computing is now a multi-million pound scientific endeavour, with scientists in the United States and Japan working hard to bring more "thinking" computers into the commercial market place.

However, the majority of the research has concentrated on turning conventional computers into neural computers by feeding them with suitable computer programs.

Professor Aleksander has made a special study of a type of neural computer in which simple electronic components are used to take the place of the brain cells, or neurons, that make up the human mind. Now the

DTI has decided to fund his team to make the microchips necessary to build a sophisticated neural net capable of solving problems which would be all but impossible to solve using conventional computers.

One of the projects being funded is to design a neural computer with the equivalent of 16 million "brain cells".

Although containing far fewer than the number of neurons in the human brain, such a machine is likely to be capable of solving some human-like tasks, such as recognizing an object when only part is shown to the machine via a television camera.

Neural nets have the unique ability to work from incomplete or even partially incorrect data, and still carry out tasks accurately.

Green Belt test case

Medieval city fighting to keep ahead

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

A battle between industrial and environmental interests is developing for the future of the historic city of Chester.

The conflict, whose outcome is likely to have wide-ranging national implications for the future of the Green Belt, arises from the tension between the city's old identity as a jewel of Britain's heritage, with its Roman walls and medieval shops, and its new one as the most successful northern example of the Thatcherite industrial revolution.

Conservative and Labour members of the city council are likely to unite to fight the decision of a Department of the Environment planning inspector that 1,000 acres of Green Belt land in the Cheshire countryside around the city must not be taken for housing and proposed industrial development that would include a high-tech business park likely to produce up to 1,000 new jobs.

The inspector, whose decision was announced this week, shares the feeling of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and of Chester's Social and Liberal Democrats, that the plan would be the beginning of the end of the city's historic character.

But the leaders of the city council, who believe that the plan is essential to maintain the impetus of their economic growth, say that the inspector's decision is disastrous and that they will try to have it overturned.

Should they do so, they may find themselves challenged by the CPRE in the High Court.

The matter will eventually land on the desk of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, and will present him with the most difficult case yet of the resistance-to-development syndrome he named Nimby - not in my back yard.

The acuteness of the conflict over the city arises from the strength of each of its twin identities, ancient and modern.

still preserves many Roman remains. With the river Dee flowing through the city, the Cheshire countryside creeping right up to it, and the mountains of North Wales a few miles away, the cathedral city is not only a prime tourist attraction but one of the most agreeable places to live in the North, and that has undoubtedly been a principal factor in its recent economic success.

in the South: this is where, in the North, the Thatcher entrepreneurial revolution has "trickled down" to in the way the present Government has always hoped.

It is the rejection, announced this week after a public inquiry by Mr L J Gray, a Department of the Environment inspector, of the city's next economic move forward - the Chester local plan - that has put Chester's exciting

"No exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated for the large-scale alterations to the detailed Green Belt boundaries defined in the adopted local plan and which, I believe, would have an adverse effect on the character of the historic city."

The decision delighted the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which had early on identified the national implications of the situation in Chester.

"This is sweet justice for a northern Green Belt grievously assaulted by the authority charged with the duty of protecting it", Mr Andrew Purkis, CPRE's director, said.

Mr Purkis added: "Chester City Council must bow to independent opinion and withdraw its grandiose plans to allow the city to sprawl outwards."

Chester City Council does not see it that way. Mr Richard Short, leader-elect of the 30-member controlling Tory group, said: "What this decision means is stagnation for Chester. It means the loss of tremendous opportunities for jobs and housing for our young people, unless it is overturned."

"I do not doubt that people in Chester once objected to the Romans changing to the Saxons, and then the Middle Ages changing to the Elizabethans, but it had to happen because the world does not stand still. We have got to go forward and we will fight this decision."

Mr John Price, his opposite number on the Labour benches, said: "We are bitterly disappointed. We want Chester to continue to be a boom town."

But although the 30-strong Tory and 18-strong Labour groups on the 60-member council (there is one independent) are likely to present a united front, the council is not unanimous.

The 11 Democrats think the inspector is right.

The Chester local plan will now go back to the city council for reconsideration in the light of the inspector's comments, which, however, are not binding.

Time to celebrate

ANDY WATTS



Delighted protesters celebrate the reprieve of the George Hotel, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, after Stroud District Council voted to include it in an extended conservation area. McCarthy & Stone, owners of the handsome 1840s building, want to demolish it to build old people's housing. Requests earlier this week by the council and the conservation group, Save Britain's Heritage, to spot-list it as of historical and architectural interest were rejected by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (English Heritage). A demolition team arrived last Monday but was thwarted by demonstrators who climbed on to the roof and staged a sit-in. McCarthy & Stone said they had received a letter from the council on March 8 approving demolition, with no suggestion that it might be listed.

Companies such as Marks & Spencer's financial services arm and Shell Chemicals have relocated to Chester, bringing thousands of new jobs in the past four years to an area that has shared the high unemployment rates of another, grimmer neighbour - Merseyside.

Local unemployment has been cut from 18 to 14 per cent and is still falling, and even more important for business confidence, the city is getting a reputation as a modern industrial boom town such as Reading or Cambridge.

future on collision course with its magnificent past.

The plan called for 300 acres immediately, and a further 700 acres later on, to be removed from the Green Belt around the city for housing and industrial development.

The latter would include a high-technology business park near the M53 which links Chester with Liverpool and the national motorway network which it was hoped would provide up to 1,000 new jobs.

But the inspector stated:

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Bush signs 'gentlemen's agreement'

Accord gives Contra rebels a year's non-military aid

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Bush and congressional leaders yesterday signed a far-reaching agreement laying out a bipartisan Central American policy under which the Nicaraguan Contras, a battered army without bullets to fight, will receive non-military aid to keep them intact until next February.

The accord followed three weeks of intensive negotiations between Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, and congressional leaders of both parties. It was signed in the White House, with President Bush saying that it marked the fulfilment of his pledge to pursue a bipartisan foreign policy.

The moderate tone of his remarks was a far cry from the belligerent position adopted by former President Reagan. He spoke optimistically about the prospects for democracy in Central America, with resources devoted to social ends instead of military defence.

He challenged the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua to comply with its promises of democracy. And he added pointedly that Moscow had an obligation to demonstrate its new thinking. "In Central America, what we have seen to date is only old thinking. The Soviet Union has no legitimate sec-

urity interests in Central America. The United States has many. We reject any doctrine of equivalence in the region. The Soviet Union and Cuba have an obligation to stop violating the provisions of the Esquipulas accord," he declared.

In large measure, the Contras owe their continued survival to the Honduran Government, which wants the rebels off its territory. But eventually it relied under US pressure to let them remain in the jungle region along the southern border with Nicaragua.

It is the first time that Democrats and Republicans have agreed a clear-cut policy towards the rebels, believed to number more than 10,000, who grew into the most lavishly funded guerrilla group that Central America has

known, thanks to the Reagan Administration.

The tentative plan is to give the rebels about \$4.5 million (£2.6 million) a month — roughly what they are receiving under present US funding levels — to provide food, clothing, shelter and medical supplies. The cut-off date coincides with elections promised by Nicaragua.

The plan will be subject to congressional review in November. Any one of four relevant congressional committees could veto the aid then if they concluded that the Administration was not acting in good faith to promote a peace settlement.

The Contras lost US military aid in February 1988. They have gradually retreated since to base camps in Honduras, awaiting political developments in Washington.

Strong protest by Dutch

The Hague (AP) — The Netherlands has issued a "strong protest" to El Salvador over the killing of a Dutch cameraman covering the Salvadoran elections, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Cornel Lagrow, whose body arrived home early yesterday, died five days ago in crossfire between left-wing guerrillas and government troops. The Dutch Foreign Minister, Mr Hans van den Broek, told the Salvadoran Ambassador, Señor Rafael Zalvidar Brizuela, that a preliminary report by the Salvadoran Army on the incident was "insufficient".

getting six-month non-military aid packages. The present allocation expires at the end of the month.

The new accord is essentially the product of negotiations between Mr Baker and Mr Jim Wright, the Democrat Speaker of the House of Representatives, who has taken a keen personal interest in the Contra issue. Congressional Democrats are adamant that the rebels will not receive further military assistance from the US.

President Bush met Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the White House yesterday to discuss details of the pact, which is being described as a "gentlemen's agreement" without force of law.

One crucial condition of the agreement is that aid will be halted immediately if the Contras attempt combat operations against Nicaragua or mount cross-border raids.

The new aid contains provision for resettling Contras wanting to return home "under safe and democratic conditions" — meaning a call by Central American presidents last month for "voluntary demobilization, repatriation or relocation" of rebels in Honduras.

A military eye on the Via Dolorosa



Israeli border guards, keeping a close eye on the Old City, look down upon thousands of pilgrims from many parts of the world, many of them carrying crosses, as the crowds retrace the last steps of Christ along the Via Dolorosa yesterday.

Camp David treaty endures despite 10 years of false hopes

From Richard Owen Jerusalem

Anwar Sadat, the former President of Egypt, is long dead, shot by Islamic fundamentalists at a military parade in Cairo in 1981 because he had dared to sign a peace treaty with Israel two years earlier.

Mr Menachem Begin, the former Israeli Prime Minister and Sadat's co-signatory, is a recluse and has refused to comment on politics since his sudden retirement in 1983 in the aftermath of Israel's disastrous decision to invade Lebanon.

But, tinged though it may be with disappointment and false hopes, the treaty endures, and tomorrow marks its tenth anniversary. But there will be few formal ceremonies.

The prospect of a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, successors to Sadat and Mr Begin, remains



Mr Begin: Today a recluse who refuses to comment on politics.

remote. Egypt, now a key player in the Middle East peace process, insists that Mr Shamir must first change his stance on talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

President Mubarak this weekend holds talks in Cairo with King Hussein of Jordan and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, on the

next stage in the peace process. On Monday he meets King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, launching his own diplomatic foray in Egypt and Iraq.

What is remarkable for those who took part in the Camp David process which led to the treaty, such as Mr Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's first Ambassador in Cairo and now chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee, is that the bilateral peace between Jerusalem and Cairo appears irreversible.

"Ten years ago, not one of us, Israelis, Egyptians or Americans, was completely convinced that the peace would last for 10 years," he said yesterday.

What bitterly disappoints many Israelis — and many Egyptians — is that Israel's first peace treaty with an Arab state has not been followed by a wider peace settlement.

For this, many observers, including Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Minister of Environmental Qual-

ity, who was in Cairo this week for a seminar on the treaty, blame Mr Shamir and his hardline refusal to consider international peace talks attended by the PLO.

"One has to have a partner on the other side to conduct negotiations with," Mr Weizman told the leading *al-Ahram* newspaper. "In my opinion Yasser Arafat is the right partner."

Many Israelis are also disappointed that Egypt has failed to send tourists, academics and businessmen to Israel in large numbers. Egypt has gradually edged back into the Arab fold, and has kept its relations with Israel correct rather than warm.

As I found on returning to Jerusalem by taxi via Rafah on the Mediterranean coast, Egyptian police at border checkpoints are suspicious of lone travellers, and travel between Israel and Egypt is confined to a daily bus.

The Palestinian problem is a

continuing source of tension. "The Israelis are still the enemy," said the driver who took me to the border, an Arab from Gaza (now in Israeli occupied territory) who sported PLO stickers on his car and kept firing an imaginary gun out of the window.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry yesterday deplored "the slow pace of normalization" and said the Egyptian media had failed to promote a positive attitude. Egypt regained Sinai, one official said, but the other benefits of peace were yet to come.

Real peace, analysts say, will come only when the Egypt-Israel treaty is followed by others, which in turn depends on a solution to the Palestinian problem, now given greater urgency by the *intifada*.

When President Mubarak met Israeli journalists in Cairo this week, he urged Israel to talk to the PLO to achieve a breakthrough, asking: "What are you afraid of?"

"Terrorism," came one reply. President Mubarak responded that Mr Arafat was a moderate who had genuinely renounced terrorism, and urged Israel to show flexibility and understanding to avoid "another 40 years of destruction".

For Israel, however, the paramount factor, despite the "old peace" with Egypt, remains security. As one diplomat said yesterday: "The treaty with Egypt has helped, but there is still a long way to go."

ATLANTA: Discussing the anniversary of the treaty which he was instrumental in bringing about, former President Jimmy Carter said here that ordinary people throughout the Middle East wanted peace, adding: "The obstacle has always been leaders who were overly timid, or who were demagogues, or who were uncertain about the results that might occur if they made an initiative move."

Intifada thins out Old City pilgrims

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem

Thousands of Christian pilgrims converged on the narrow streets of Jerusalem's Old City yesterday to follow the Via Dolorosa, the path of Christ's Passion and Crucifixion. But the 15-month *intifada* took its toll, and crowds were thinner than usual.

"Families here have sons in prison or sons who died," said a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Michel Sabbah, who is himself a Palestinian Arab. "The sufferings here underline the sufferings of Christ on Good Friday. There will be little joy to celebrate on Easter Sunday."

At the first station of the Cross, the site of the Roman Antonia Fortress, a variety of Christian groups gathered round the indentation in the smooth stone floor said to be the spot where Christ stood when he was condemned to death — German nuns, weeping and praying; Franciscan monks in brown cassocks; and Arab Christians from near Bethlehem, resplendent in black robes and red sashes.

All the groups in the procession carried heavy wooden crosses and sang hymns as they walked past Arab street traders in the *souk*, selling carpets, sweet pastries and souvenirs. "It is very bad for business," one shopkeeper said, evidently regarding Easter as an opportunity for commerce. "No tourists."

Yesterday Israeli troops kept a discreet but watchful eye on the proceedings. At the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Christ's Crucifixion and burial, pilgrims crowded into the crypt to see the tomb from which Christ rose again.

"We are awestruck," said Mr James Stanford, from Leicester, who had come with his wife, Paula, on "the pilgrimage of a lifetime" to give thanks in Jerusalem for 25 years of marriage.

Had they been worried by violence or the presence of soldiers? "Not at all," Mrs Stanford said. "The soldiers are a bit like British policemen. So helpful when you get lost."

ROME: The Pope heard confessions yesterday of seven Catholics chosen at random from thousands in St Peter's Basilica (Reuters reports).

Wearing a dark mantle over his white cassock, the Pope spent 70 minutes hearing the confessions of a West German religion teacher, two Roman bus drivers, two Italian army cadets and a mother and son from Verona.

SAN PEDRO CUTUD: Seven men had themselves nailed to wooden crosses in this northern Philippines village and thousands more Christians paraded in the streets whipping themselves in observance of Good Friday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pakistan likely to rejoin the fold

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is expected to attend the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Kuala Lumpur in October, according to sources in London (Andrew McEwen writes). Islamabad has not applied to rejoin the organization it left in 1972, but Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, who flies to Islamabad tomorrow, will discuss the matter with Miss Bhutto.

The Commonwealth Secretariat in London is working on the assumption that there will be an application in time for the Malaysian meeting. Pakistan would become the 49th state of the organization and the first to return to it. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, is thought to have found no objections.

Pakistan would not return unless it felt confident of being welcomed, but its restoration of democracy and the rapprochement with India have virtually assured this.

Threat to moderates

Jerusalem — Palestinians said yesterday that masked militants from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine had threatened leading Arab moderates in the West Bank town of Nablus with death if they continued a dialogue with Israeli officials (Richard Owen writes).

The death threats reflect growing tension between the mainstream PLO and such extreme factions as the Front over the possibility of an accommodation with Israel. Separately, the Knesset agreed an £11-million budget for Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Nepal lifelines cut

Kathmandu (Reuters) — Nepal's lifelines were almost completely cut yesterday as India closed 11 of 13 vital routes from the Himalayan nation as part of a trade dispute. Treaties between the countries expired on Thursday with negotiations for renewal at an impasse. The Nepali Foreign Minister, Mr Shalendra Upadhyaya, leaves for Delhi tomorrow in an effort to revive them. Nepal relies on India for almost half its total imports and most essential commodities.

Bribe inquiry widens

Tokyo (AFP) — The Tokyo Public Prosecutor's office is to question government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party leaders for their alleged involvement in the Recruit stock trading scandal, Japanese newspapers reported yesterday. They said the prosecutors had finished questioning the secretary of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, and his predecessor, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, in connection with Recruit shares received as alleged bribes.

Pretoria adamant

Cape Town (Reuters) — Mr Sadie Thusi, a critically-ill detainee who has refused food for five weeks to back his demand to be freed or charged, must start eating before South Africa will consider his release, the Department of Law and Order said yesterday. Mr Thusi, aged 26, joined a nationwide anti-detention hunger strike on February 18. He underwent car surgery on Thursday as a result of the fast and his sister-in-law said she thought he would die.

March for democracy

Dhaka — Tens of thousands marched here calling for democracy and free elections yesterday, the seventh anniversary of the coup which brought President Ershad to power and the imposition of martial law for the second time since independence in 1972 (Ahmed Fazl writes). "We want genuine elections and a return to democracy, not a rule by generals," Sheikh Hasina Wazed, head of the opposition Awami League, told 50,000 marchers.

Yeltsin likely to overcome election slur 'campaign'

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Boris Yeltsin, the popular former Moscow Communist Party chief, is likely to be elected to the Soviet Union's next parliament in tomorrow's national elections — despite an apparent attempt to discredit him.

After two large demonstrations in his support this week, an unofficial poll conducted by Soviet journalists suggested that he would sweep the poll in the Moscow constituency.

According to one report, 17 of those questioned backed him for every one who planned to vote for his officially-backed opponent, Mr Sergei Brakov, manager of the Zil car factory.

Mr Yeltsin joined a large following as Moscow's party chief from 1985 to 1987. A crushing vote for him could be taken as a rebuke to the Soviet leadership, which dismissed him after a speech in October, 1987 in which he criticized the pace of reform as too slow.

He is still a member of the party Central Committee, but it too has sought to put pressure on him, saying it has investigated statements he has made implicitly supporting multi-party democracy. Demonstrations in favour of Mr Yeltsin have been largely ignored by the Moscow newspapers, which appear to be acting on official orders.

He believes this is designed to stop him winning. "They've

tried to boycott me and denigrate me using any means, even dishonest ones," he was quoted as saying in an interview with the Italian newspaper, *La Repubblica*.

"I assure you it has been a very crude campaign. But as for the results I am beginning to think they will end up with exactly the opposite of what they intended to achieve."

He added: "I didn't expect it but maybe I was naive... Somebody wants to prevent me at all costs from entering the Supreme Soviet. The reason is clear: they are afraid of me... of the fact that I say what I think and am not afraid of expressing my opinions even if they are different from those of the leadership."

He again denied any wish to challenge President Gorbachev's leadership. "I am not



Mr Yeltsin: No intention to challenge the President.

and I do not want to be an alternative to Gorbachev... I will never oppose Gorbachev," he said.

In tomorrow's elections voters in 1,500 districts will elect representatives to the congress, which will eventually have 2,250 deputies. The two-tier parliament will have more power than the Supreme Soviet, which it replaces.

MOSCOW: The Ukrainian public prosecutor has said that bodies taken from a mass grave near Kiev were the victims of purges by Stalin during the 1930s. Tass revealed yesterday (AFP reports).

Mr Viktor Kulik, heading an official investigation committee into the mass grave, which was found last year near the village of Bykovnia, made the announcement after examining remains and a number of personal objects in the grave, Tass said.

A study of archives confirmed that the bodies — said to number thousands — were those of so-called enemies of the people accused by the Stalin regime of counter-revolutionary activities, spying and plotting against the Government.

It said Mr Kulik expected that other mass graves could be found in the area and that searches were continuing. Leading article, page 11

The Kosovo crisis

Riot police clash with Albanians

Belgrade (Reuters) — Thousands of ethnic Albanians, hurling stones and shouting slogans, clashed with riot police in Kosovo yesterday in a second day of protests against moves to curb self-rule in the troubled southern Yugoslav province.

Belgrade Radio said more than 2,000 young Albanians battled police in the Kosovo town of Uroševac, 150 miles south of Belgrade, ignoring warnings that any new protests would be stamped out.

Police charged the stone-throwing protesters with batons and the town centre was sealed off. The radio said "quite a large number" of protesters were detained.

Uroševac was hit by riots and shooting on Thursday when police used batons and tear gas to crush a protest against a decision by the provincial Parliament to surrender autonomy to Serbia, the largest Yugoslav republic.

The Tanjug news agency said that protesters also massed in the town of Prizren, on the Albanian border. Police said earlier yesterday they would swiftly crush any unrest in Kosovo.

Officials said that 55 people were arrested in Thursday's clashes in Uroševac and 11 police injured. An unknown number of demonstrators had been hurt and some rioters

were jailed for provisional 60-day terms on charges of causing public disorder.

Meanwhile, three journalists in the southern republic of Montenegro were charged by military prosecutors with slandering the Army by reporting that 100 ethnic Albanian army officers, including a general, faced arrest for plotting unrest in Kosovo.

Thursday's unrest was the first rioting in Kosovo since martial law was briefly imposed in 1981 to crush Albanian separatist disturbances.

The riots in Uroševac and the provincial capital Pristina, 135 miles south of Belgrade, broke out after the Parliament adopted constitutional changes giving Serbia control of Kosovo's police, courts, civil defence and selection of officials. The changes also give Serbia a free hand to reduce further Kosovo's autonomy in the future.

The province's 1.7 million ethnic Albanian majority see the constitutional changes as a threat to their political, cultural and educational rights. Serbia denies that this is the case.

The curbs on the autonomy of Kosovo strengthen Serbia's position within the Yugoslav federation, putting it on a par with the other five republics in the country, which have never had autonomous provinces.

Rural court hits Luftwaffe's low flying

From Ian Murray Bonn

The people of the rural area of Cloppenburg in Lower Saxony have taken on the Luftwaffe and won a battle which has ominous consequences for Nato.

A court in Oldenburg has ruled that the Luftwaffe will have to fly higher over the towns and fields of the area to spare the population some of the noise it suffers from low-level training.

The area is one of seven in which Nato has an agreement to fly down to 250ft, but the court, which has no jurisdiction over the Allies in this, has decided that it can at least stop West German aircraft from flying lower than 1,000ft above towns and 500ft over the open countryside.

In January an RAF Tornado crashed close to a village school not far from Oldenburg when it collided

with a flight of Luftwaffe aircraft. The mid-air accident did not occur inside the permitted low-flying area.

The Defence Ministry in Bonn, which fully agrees with Nato that some low-level training is essential, is fighting the decision. The levels the court has imposed are still so low that noise would be little reduced, but aircraft have to fly too high for pilots to benefit from the exercise.

Herr Rupert Scholz, the Defence Minister, is trying to tackle the low-flying problem on two fronts and making little progress on either. On the one hand, he is trying to persuade the Allies to reduce the number of low-flying hours. On the other hand he is trying to persuade more areas of West Germany to accept some low flying in order to spread the load carried by the seven small areas where it is permitted.

Herr Scholz is under strong domestic

pressure to halve low-flying hours in these areas by the summer. The coalition Government is losing votes in rural areas worst affected and the minister has promised to achieve reductions which will make a noticeable difference to the noise.

He is seeking to persuade the Allies that low-level flying could lose his Government the election next year and that it is therefore in their interests to help him if they want to avoid having to deal with a "red-green" coalition which will be less amenable to Nato.

However, during a meeting this week with the commanders of the seven allied air forces, he failed to convince them of the need for anything like a 50 per cent reduction.

British and US commanders were critical of the fact that West German pilots do only 160 low-level training hours a year instead of the 240 which Nato considers is the essential minimum. For Nato's defence to be credible, they argued, it was important to increase the Luftwaffe total and not cut hours from the others.

In addition Herr Scholz's discomfort, the allied commanders argued that for low-level training to be really effective it should be allowed down to 100ft in some areas. They certainly gave no encouragement at all to his idea of raising the low-level limit in the seven permitted areas from 250ft to 500ft.

Herr Scholz has been equally unsuccessful in talks with leaders of the federal states where no low-level flying is allowed. He has tried to explain to them that if every area is used then nobody will have to put up with very much. However, political leaders of states which do not suffer at all are not prepared to take the electoral risk of accepting even the smallest amount. The Cloppenburg victory makes his task more difficult.

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Our Own
respondent
resides

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grims to the Roman
Cathedral of St. Peter's. The path of
the pilgrims is a long and arduous
one, and the journey is a test of
faith and endurance. The pilgrims
are dressed in simple robes and
carry a staff and a bag. They are
seen in the streets of Rome, and
in the Vatican, and in the
holy places of the city. The
pilgrims are a sight to be
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is a journey of the soul.

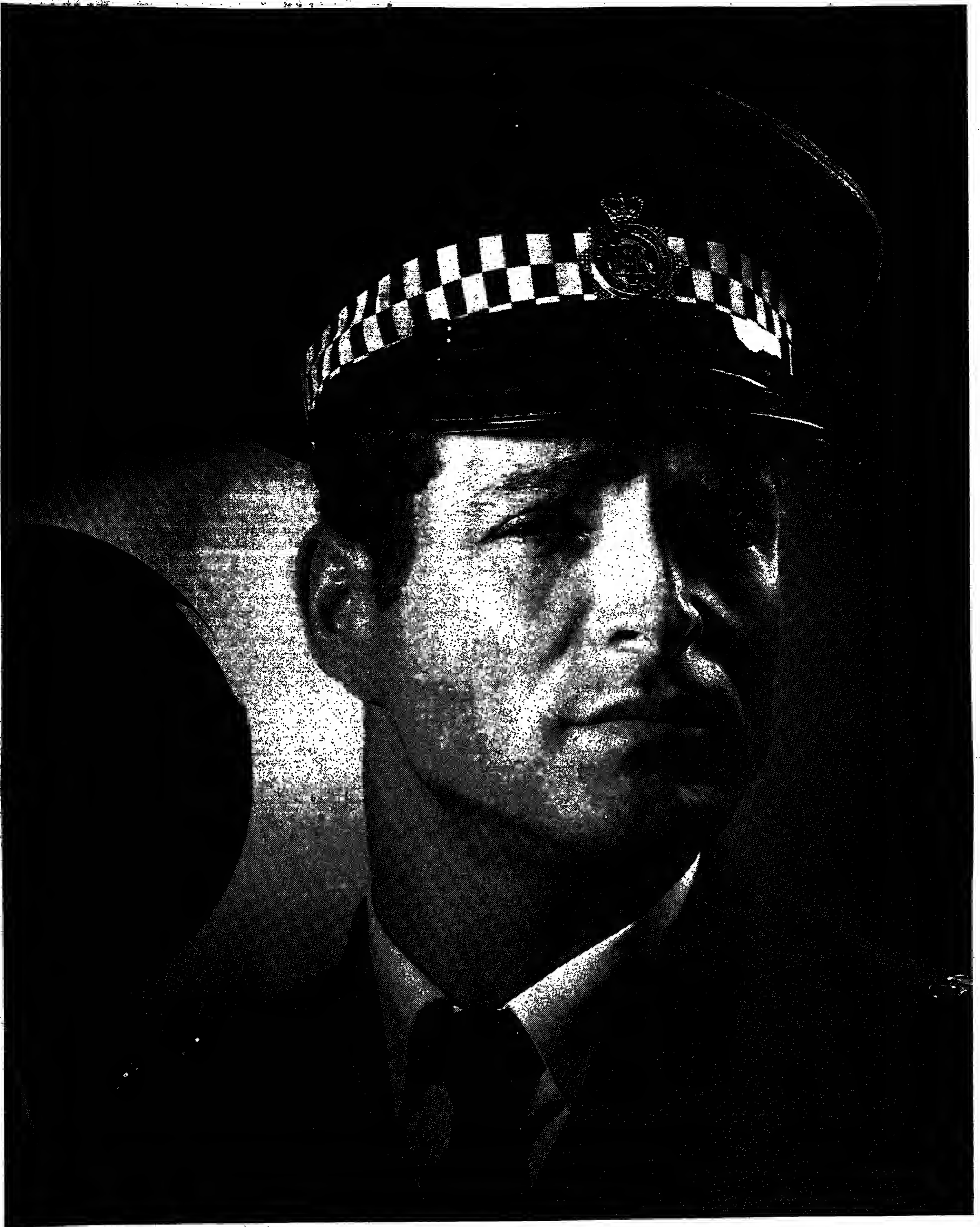
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THE TIMES

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Envoys see Thatcher-Gorbachov role in Pretoria solution

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

As Mrs Thatcher prepares for her visit to Africa next week, the outlines of a possible settlement of the South African conflict are emerging, with both the Soviet and British governments playing important linked roles.

The decision by President Botha of South Africa to step down later this year has raised hopes of faster reforms. President Gorbachov and the Prime Minister are seen by diplomats as key players, because of their influence respectively with the African National Congress and South Africa's five million whites.

They will meet in London on April 5-7, shortly after her tour, and are likely to devote more time to the importance of tomorrow's national elections, the two sources feel that, after years of sharp differences, the two countries are now pulling in the same direction. No formal Anglo-Soviet joint approach is likely, but understandings between the two leaders could have the same effect.

Mr Gorbachov is thought to be ready to coax, but not force, the ANC to suspend its armed

struggle. His argument will be that violence plays into the hands of the far right and could prevent a government committed to reform winning the general election expected in October.

The ANC has always dismissed the relevance of elections from which blacks are excluded. But Moscow succeeded in persuading Angola and Cuba to accept the Angola-Namibia agreement, and has now turned its attention to South Africa.

Mrs Thatcher's role, as the foreign leader enjoying most respect among white South Africans, will be to persuade the new government to carry out real rather than cosmetic changes. In a booklet published by the Foreign Office yesterday, *Britain's Voice in South Africa*, she is quoted as saying: "I do not see how... it is possible to achieve political stability except on a basis where all adults have the vote. The issue is to reconcile the exercise of those normal democratic rights... with the reasonable protection of minority interests."

If the National Party beats off the conservative challenge in the general election, Mr F. W. de Klerk is likely to take power with a mandate for

constitutional changes. President Botha may stay in office until soon afterwards, but will be unable to ignore the wish of Mr de Klerk and other National Party leaders for a faster pace of reform. He seems likely to authorize the release of Nelson Mandela, life president of the ANC, before stepping down. This prospect should put Mrs Thatcher in a stronger position next week. She is to see President Babangida of Nigeria on

Lasaka (Reuter) — Two African National Congress members were seriously injured when they drove over a landmine in Zambia, near Namibia's South African-controlled Caprivi strip.

Tuesday, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Chissano of Mozambique on Wednesday, and President Banda of Malawi on Friday.

Mrs Thatcher has always said she regards further sanctions as counter-productive. In the past, the front-line states have been sceptical, but she will argue that her approach is beginning to work. While the influence of the United States and Canada with Pretoria has declined, hers has

increased. Britain has performed a key role in bringing together Soviet and South African academics at two meetings this month. These have shown that advisers outside the Soviet Foreign Ministry, but with known access to President Gorbachov, are advising him to qualify Moscow's support for the ANC.

The meetings may have paved the way for talks between Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and Mr Anatoli Adamishin, a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister. The two men were in Maputo, the Mozambican capital, at the same time on Thursday, and Mr Botha refused to disclose whether or not they met.

Though still cautious, the National Party has not dismissed the signs of a change in Soviet attitudes. Its chief spokesman, Mr Con Botha, MP, said: "Should Russia succeed in persuading the ANC to become a non-violent organization, Mandela's problem would be solved, and ours too." This is not necessarily over-optimistic, some British sources say. Sir John Killick, a former British Ambassador to Moscow, who chaired a meeting this month between Soviet and

South African academics outside London, believes Moscow is in a pragmatic mood.

He pointed out that the Soviet delegation, headed by Mr Anatoli Gromyko, son of the former President, came close to having official status. All its members were drawn from the Africa Institute, an influential body. Sir John added: "They made it clear that they did not think armed struggle (by the ANC) was the right course." The delegation implied (but did not promise) that Moscow would try to persuade the ANC to move away from violence, but qualified this by saying they could understand if the ANC felt it had no alternative.

The Soviet academics criticized Pretoria and the ANC for setting preconditions for talks. They said they did not regard the ANC as the sole spokesman for black South Africa, and talked of a round-table approach involving all parties. They implied, but did not confirm, this would include Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, the moderate head of the Inkatha Zulu movement, who enjoys Mrs Thatcher's support but is in dispute with the ANC.

Leading article, page 11

Ozal faces crucial test in Turkish mayoral elections

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Despite attempts by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, to play down the importance of tomorrow's national mayoral elections, they are seen here as likely to decide his political future.

Mr Ozal has already scheduled a comprehensive shake-up of his six-year-old Government immediately after the poll. In an interview with a leading national daily this week, he also felt the need to repeat the warning which served him so well in a referendum last year: That he "would seriously consider stepping down" if the opposition made substantial gains.

More than 28 million Turks are set to elect mayors and members of councils in hundreds of towns tomorrow. But the Social Democrats and other opposition parties have turned the ballot into another test of popularity for Mr Ozal and his Motherland Party, whose share of the vote is expected generally to decline.

The stakes are high for the Prime Minister. Observers believe that he is nursing ambitions of becoming the next head of state. President Evren, who led the army coup in 1980 and was elected to office in 1982, completes his term in November. His replacement is to be named by the 450-member Parliament, in which Mr Ozal's party enjoys a 292-strong majority.

But the Social Democrats, led by Mr Erdal Inonu, and the small True Path Party of Mr Suleyman Demirel, a seasoned conservative, are disputing Mr Ozal's aspirations to the presidency, given that

only about a third of the nation backs him.

The Motherland Party received 36 per cent of the votes in the 1987 general election and slightly less in last year's referendum.

A bigger aim for the opposition is to force an early general election which, it says, will be inevitable if the Government's support falls below 30 per cent.

A combination of circumstances has put Mr Ozal on the defensive, and he is relying on frequent television appearances and allusions to the terrorism once so prevalent to bolster his standing.

Turkey's worried creditors have enforced restraint on campaign spending. Mr Ozal is grappling with a 75 per cent inflation rate, mounting debts, and mushrooming corruption scandals. There has been adverse reaction, even from within the party, to the substantial power vested in members of Mr Ozal's family.

The far right and Islamic fundamentalists within his

party, resenting the dominance of liberals sheltered by Mr Ozal and his influential wife, Semra, do not even pretend to be campaigning hard, and openly hope a setback will jolt the leadership "back to its senses".

But the liberal faction is no more supportive. One of the most serious challenges to Mr Ozal's absolute authority has come from Mr Bedrettin Dalan, the popular mayor of Istanbul, who has been advertising his quarrel with the Prime Minister and only just stopped short of renouncing his ties with the party in an attempt to maximize his vote.

Some opposition politicians perceive in this friction a cunning plot to lure as many opposition supporters as possible to an "independent" Mr Dalan, so that he would receive the support of a large majority of Istanbul's four million voters.

Many observers believe that, if Mr Dalan's electoral strategy works and he vastly increases his support, he will become untouchable — even by Mr Ozal.

In the event of such an outcome, Mr Dalan would have to be appeased by an enhanced party role to forestall his rumoured plans to found a breakaway grouping, taking away liberal big guns from Mr Ozal and recruiting from among the opposition.

But if Mr Dalan fails, analysts hint at plans by Mr Ozal to withdraw state subsidies, leaving the mayor with huge foreign debts accumulated by his revitalization programme, or even divide Istanbul in two.



Mr Ozal: His hopes of the presidency are in jeopardy.

Seoul opposition condemns the issue of rifles to police

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

The decision to issue rifles to police to use against demonstrators has awakened dark memories of South Korea's recent authoritarian past and heightened fears of political polarization.

The National Police chief ordered the distribution of 13,000 M16 assault rifles to 3,190 police sub-stations on Thursday, after a call by President Roh to "take up arms and invoke the right of self-defence" against firebomb throwers. The order said the rifles, supplementing the traditional tear gas, were to be aimed at protesters' ankles.

The move marked a stepping up of the Government's campaign against what it sees as encroaching left-wing activity among students, workers, farmers and other dissatisfied groups, who often chant North Korean propaganda.

The new policy drew immediate condemnation from opposition sources. "I was

aghast to see that the Government... has decided to provide M16 rifles to even police sub-stations and to allow policemen to open fire at protesters," said Mr Kim Dae Jung, leader of the largest opposition group in the National Assembly.

While conceding the need to maintain law and order, the Government's critics say the left-wing threat has been "manufactured" to enhance the Government's power.

A Western diplomat said: "The whole left-wing fear is being talked up and exaggerated because of a right-wing backlash. We've been afraid of it since the Olympics. It shows there's no real change in the Government. I'm disappointed and disturbed. It's setting the scene for more repression."

The 1980 killing of some 200 anti-martial law protesters in the city of Kwangju remains fresh in South Korean

memory as an example of government over-reaction to popular protest. President Roh has fought hard to put the Kwangju issue to rest, but critics say arming the police identifies him too closely with his disgraced predecessor and mentor, Mr Chun Doo Hwan.

Others see the anti-left campaign as a means of heading off right-wing extremists. The rift issue comes amid growing division within the ruling party, the Democratic Justice Party, and fears that South Korea's powerful military might step in to assume a political role. But most members declined the offer.

"Now we think radical extremists on the left, who are trying to bring down the regime, are causing a lot of trouble," said Mr Park Chong Soo, a ruling party deputy adding that supplying police with rifles was meant as a threat more than a promise that they would be fired.

Najibullah's Army calls on female firepower



A new woman recruit to the Afghan Army receiving training from an instructor in Kabul on the Chinese-made AK47 assault rifle.

Meanwhile, Mujahidin sources said in Pakistan yesterday that their forces had repulsed an attempt by President

Najibullah's troops to reopen the road from Kabul to the besieged city of Jalalabad (Reuters reports from Peshawar). The rebels said that a government force had come down the road from the town of Sorobi on Thursday, backed by a helicopter bombardment.

The guerrillas shot down one helicopter and killed three soldiers, the sources said, citing radio reports from the area. They also blew up a bridge, the second in recent days.

Independent confirmation of the claims was unavailable. A Soviet

newspaper said on Thursday a supply column failed to reach Jalalabad from Kabul, because rebels had blown up bridges. But the Mujahidin said that about 25 helicopters had flown from Kabul to Jalalabad yesterday, and may have brought supplies.

Soviet relations in the Middle East

Saudis ready to end 51-year rift

From Christopher Walker, Riyadh

February's final withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan will prove the catalyst necessary to bring about the formal resumption of diplomatic ties between the conservative kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union after a gap of 51 years, according to the consensus of opinion among leading Arab and Western analysts in Riyadh.

"There have been so many straws in the wind that everyone here believes that it is now only a matter of time before ambassadors are exchanged," one senior Western Europe diplomat said.

"What remains is for the royal family to obtain the vital consent of Saudi Islamic leaders that such a move can take place, and that the communists are no longer equated with Satan."

Although no date for such an exchange has yet been set by either side, officials, noting the recent opening of diplomatic links between Moscow and Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, are looking to a 12-18 month period.

"The main stumbling block would be if the Kremlin was seen overstepping its treaty rights in its arming of the despised Najibullah regime in Kabul," one official said.

Among the most recent pointers to an impending change in approach was the surprise presence of *Pravda's* Middle East correspondent at

last week's meeting here of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization, an invitation to a top Soviet official to address the Saudi-based Arab League Police Academy and the warm Saudi reception accorded to the Soviet soccer team playing in the World Youth Cup.

According to Western observers who have been closely monitoring the thaw such gestures would have been unthinkable even two years ago. One motive is believed to be an attempt by the Saudis to signal discontent with recent American handling of the arms sales question and of the

● Soviet links were highly developed before the break ●

Middle East in general, where the Saudi leadership feels the Gulf is being dragged into the Soviet orbit.

The pointers followed the first concrete hint that a sea-change in Saudi Arabia's longstanding public hostility to Moscow (private ties on vital oil-related issues were always kept up) was coming, namely last December's visit of Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister and resident Ambassador in Kabul, for talks in the mountain resort of Taif on the Afghan conflict.

Saudi Arabia has been one of the principle supporters of

the Afghan Mujahidin and Mr Vorontsov was the highest ranking Kremlin official to be received by the Saudi leadership since Stalin unilaterally broke off relations in 1938.

The rapprochement with Moscow coincided with a more forward Saudi profile in foreign policy as a whole, notably with the other Communist giant, China, with whom an agreement to open commercial offices staffed by diplomats in the two respective capitals was signed last November. That was also widely seen as a likely prelude to eventual diplomatic recognition.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain are the only two members of the six nation alliance, the Gulf Co-operation Council — which also includes Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE — not to have diplomatic links with either of the world's two big communist powers.

The establishment of official commercial ties with China reflected the increased warmth between the two countries since they began general trade talks at the end of 1987, an initiative which culminated in the significant purchase by Saudi Arabia in April 1988 of Chinese intermediate-range missiles. "The best bet is that we shall see a Chinese ambassador setting up here shortly before a Soviet one," a Riyadh-based diplomat said.

Before the break by Stalin, for which there was no public explanation, trade links be-

tween the two nations were highly developed, and the Saudi desert kingdom relied heavily on Moscow to provide it with basic goods and commodities, including petroleum products.

After the pre-war break with Moscow, Saudi Arabia was seen as a staunch ally of the West, notably in the 1960s and 1970s when the Saudi monarchy tended to equate communism with Zionism.

The Soviet Army's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 placed a new obstacle to the resumption of ties which President Gorbachov has been working hard behind the

● Communism was equated with Zionism by Saudi kings ●

scenes to engineer. Although friction between the state-supported atheism of the Marxist Kremlin and the conservative Islamic tendencies of Saudi Arabia still exists, the withdrawal from Kabul and a recent high profile tour of the Middle East by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, have removed most suspicions from this end.

"It is not that the Saudis are planning to turn their backs on the U.S.," a diplomatic source said. "But there is a new approach and warmth in the Soviet Union that has not been seen here in decades."

Belgian is charged on kidnapping

Brussels (AP) — A lawyer has been charged here over the kidnapping in January of Mr Paul Vanden Boeynants, the former Prime Minister, who was freed only after his family paid an undisclosed ransom.

Officials said Mr Michel Vander Elst, aged 41, charged with kidnapping, extortion, forgery and conspiracy, was the lawyer of Patrick Hamers, an escaped convict and a suspect in the case.

Four killed

Colombo (AFP) — The military has blamed the deaths of four suspected Sinhalese militants on vigilantes only a day after the Government bowed to opposition demands to look into alleged police involvement in such incidents.

Tourist death

Paris (AFP) — A Portuguese tourist was killed when he was almost decapitated in a collision between a packed tourist boat and a barge on the Seine near Notre Dame. Ten people were slightly injured.

Leader held

Bangkok (Reuters) — Burma's military rulers have arrested Mr Min Ko Naing, one of the country's most prominent student leaders, and warned that anti-army protests will not be tolerated.

Boats stopped

Hong Kong (AFP) — Marine police have intercepted two vessels carrying 207 Vietnamese boat people, the largest number stopped in one day this year.

Basques freed

Poitiers (AFP) — Two suspected Basque militants were released after an appeals court in this French town refused the Madrid Government's request for their extradition.

Poverty trap

Bangkok (AFP) — More than two billion people living in Asia and the Pacific earn only 60p or less a day, the head of a UN agency said.

Not so funny

Delhi (AFP) — Police have arrested Johnny Lever, aged 32, a popular film comedian, for mocking the national anthem at a party in Dubai, press reports said.

Attack victim

Bangkok (AFP) — A Japanese man who was attacked and robbed by a taxi driver on his honeymoon here died in hospital, officials said.

Cash needed to save the crumbling monuments of Italy

From Roger Boyes
Verona

The traditional Easter processions will be muted this year in the medieval town of Pavia. The collapse of its 900-year-old bell tower, which claimed four lives, has shattered the orderly pace of the old city republic. A warning that more buildings might be falling apart forced the police to rope off the centre again.

This is more than an architectural and personal tragedy. All over Italy cracks are appearing in domes and masonry, towers and palaces creak as the ancient foundations shift. Pavia, many art historians fear, was not a freak event.

An already out-of-date list of seriously threatened monuments amasses 115 Italian sites — including the Roman Colosseum, the first-century Arena in Verona, the inacoscata di Brera in Milan. These landmarks of European civilization are not about to tumble down in a matter of days, but they are suffering

from grave structural and geological problems which could, if unchecked, lead to catastrophe.

Bell towers are particularly sensitive, as the case of Pavia demonstrates earlier this month. In 1902 the bell tower of St Mark's in Venice fell down because low water levels sapped the foundations.

For the past few years the Campidoglio bell tower in Rome has begun to list and, according to the Mayor, Signor Pietro Giubilo, a working group will begin to inspect the structure within days.

"Many towers are still standing only because God wills it," Professor Paolo Marconi, the art historian, declares. "Our ancestors were competing sharply when they built their towers; each architect wanted to build higher than that of other towns and cities. The structures suffered — often the base pillars had to carry extraordinarily heavy weights."

The reasons for the Pavia catastrophe are not fully clear yet, but it is plain that it was suffering from the

disease of all Italy's twelfth and thirteenth century towers — a combination of soil erosion, the drying up of the foundations, the powdering of masonry and the vibrations of the modern world.

Only two structures are being monitored with state-of-the-art technology — the leaning tower of Pisa and the cupola of Florence Cathedral. Professor Marconi says

Pavia (Reuters) — Signora Vincenza Bone Parriano, Italy's Minister of Culture, said here that she was proposing a £3.7 billion plan to restore the nation's monuments.

that he managed to slow the slippage of the Pisa tower by lobbying against geologists who wanted to bore for water nearby.

Professor Gerolami of the University of Pisa said that the tower's tilt increases on average 1.25 mm per year. "It's not really a structural problem. It is simply that the terrain underneath the tower is not very solid. The weight of the tower

compresses the underlying soil and every year the soil becomes more and more compact. Moreover, underneath the monument there are streams of water that change their course every year. When they built the tower (it was started in 1173), they didn't know this."

The working hypothesis is that the tower of Pisa will fall down in about a century, but the Pavia incident could mean a recalculation of the odds.

The architecture division of the Italian Central Restoration Institute has drawn up a provisional map of monuments most at risk, based on geological and environmental factors. Earthquake tremors are the main hazard, and there is a lively discussion about whether monuments in threatened areas — in Catania in Sicily, for example — should be given iron stabilizers or have cement injected into the foundations.

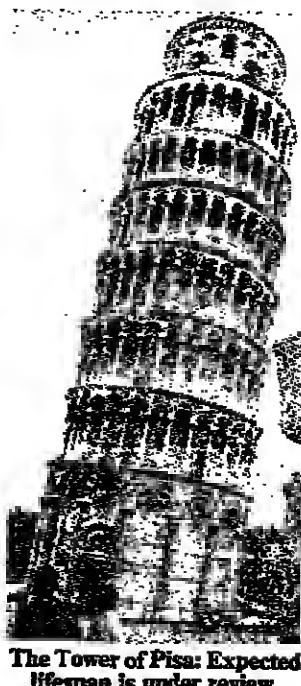
Landslips, flooding, climate, air pollution, all have to be brought into the calculations. Another vari-

able is that of mass tourism — what long-term effects do tramping feet have on ancient stairways?

The principal threat to Italy's monuments, though, is the dead hand of government huddling. Italy, the biggest cultural treasure trove in Europe, allocates only 0.24 per cent of its budget to culture, France about 1 per cent.

The National Geological Service, which should be bringing its technology to the aid of culture, was whittled away for decades. The monuments should be closely inspected by the local cultural watchdogs, the Superintendents.

But, according to Professor Federico Zerri, "superintendents have so many other things to do: They teach at university, send art works abroad. And though they rightly complain about lack of money, they use available funds for pointless purchases and throw money away on senseless exhibitions." The result, says Professor Zerri, is that monuments are often saved only by accident.



The Tower of Pisa: Expected lifespan is under review.

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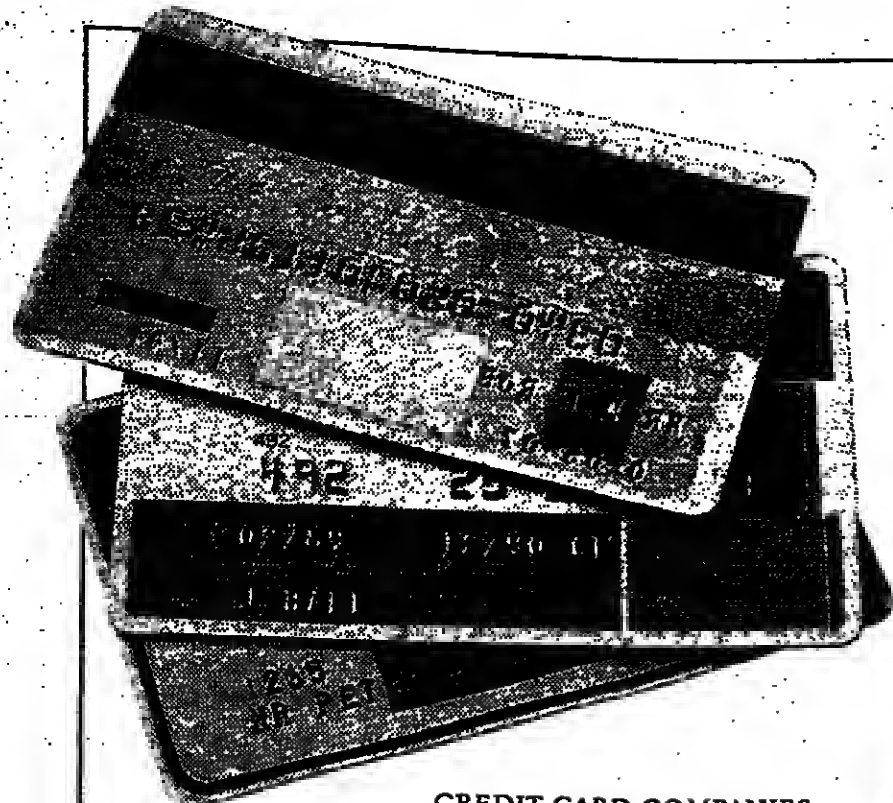
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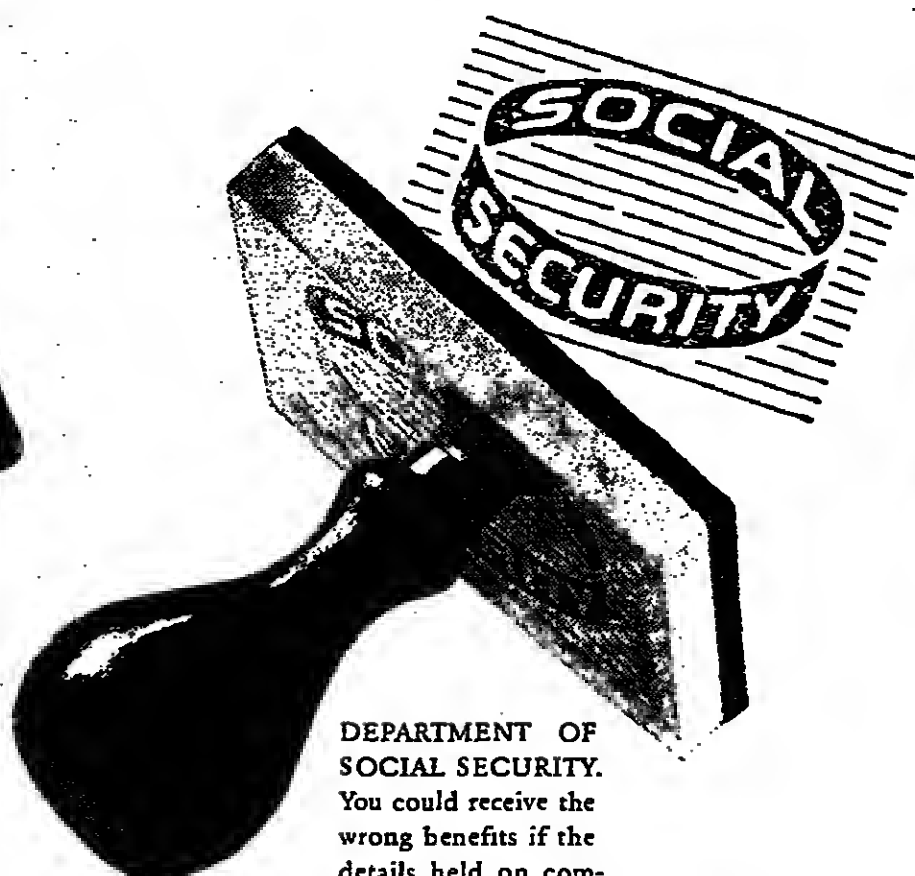
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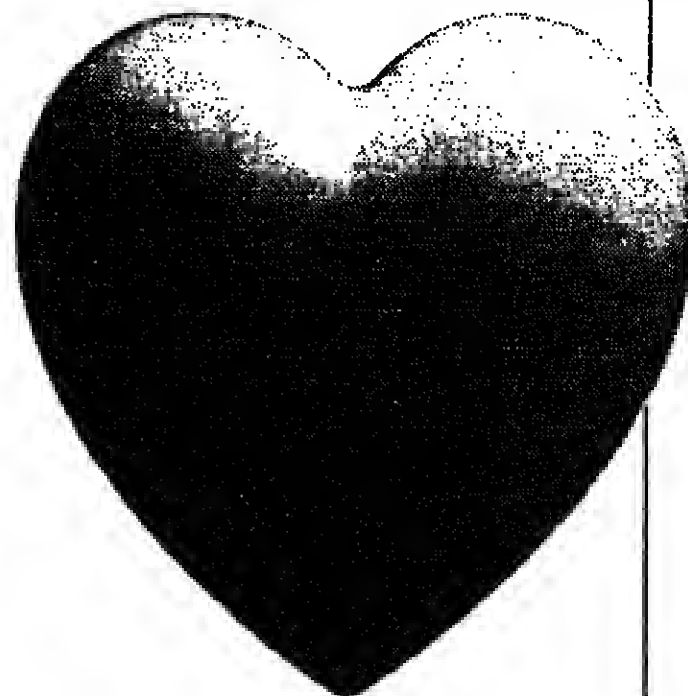


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If you've ever been turned down for credit,
when you know you're credit-worthy, do you wonder why?

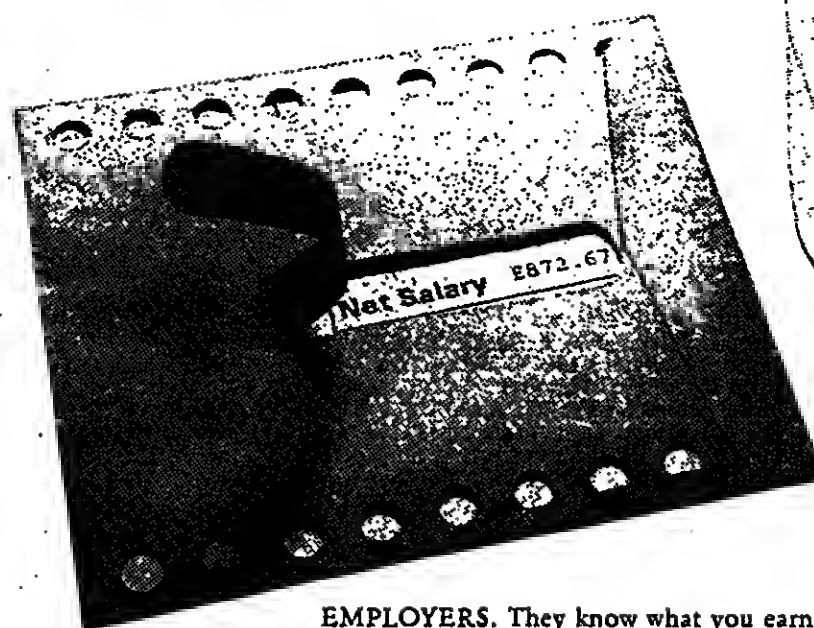
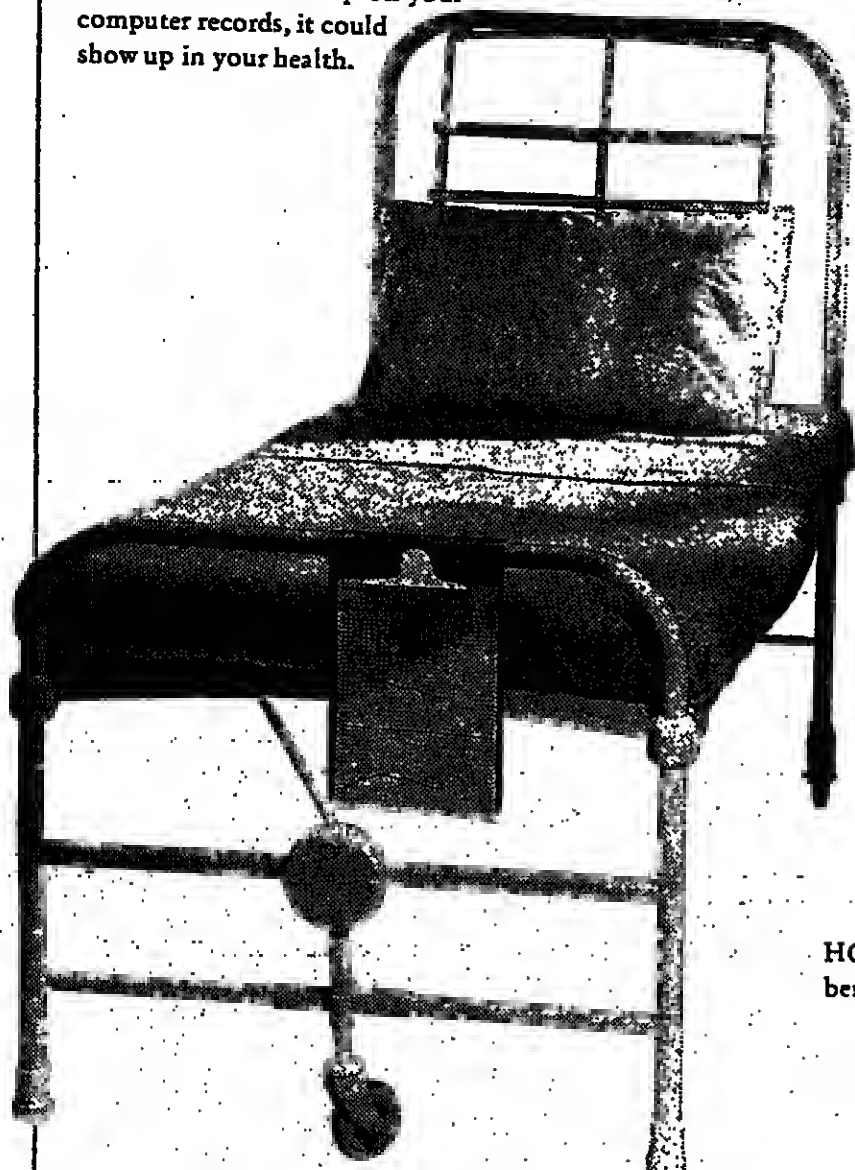


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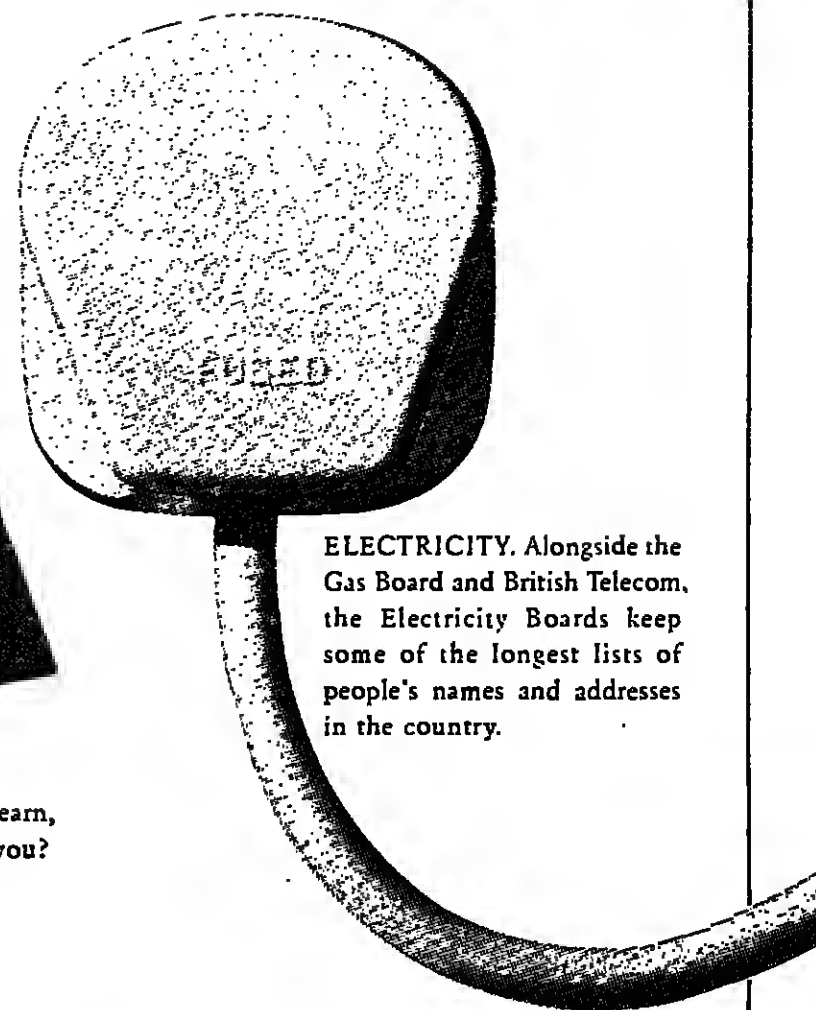
COMPUTER DATING AGENCIES. Just
because you describe yourself as tall, dark
and handsome doesn't mean they always do.



HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS.
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and it doesn't show up on your
computer records, it could
show up in your health.

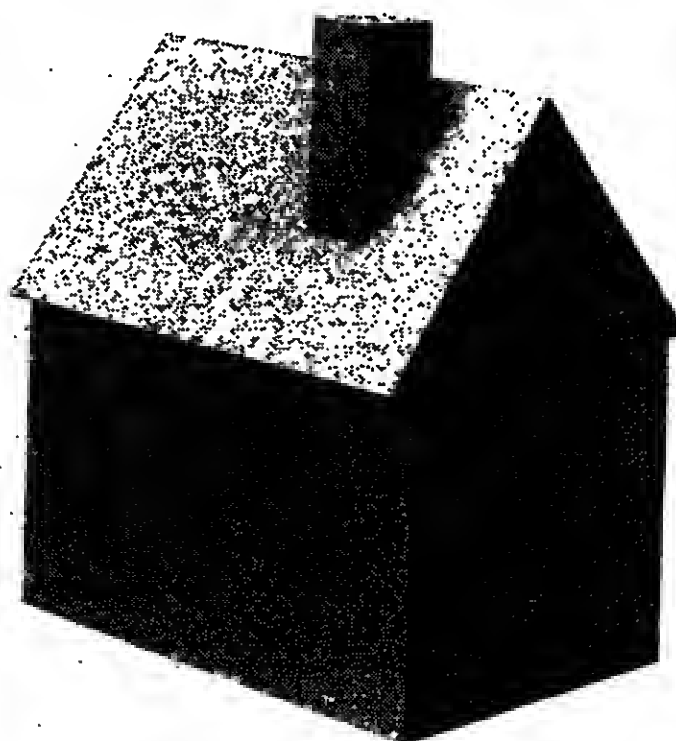


EMPLOYERS. They know what you earn,
but what else do they know about you?



ELECTRICITY. Alongside the
Gas Board and British Telecom,
the Electricity Boards keep
some of the longest lists of
people's names and addresses
in the country.

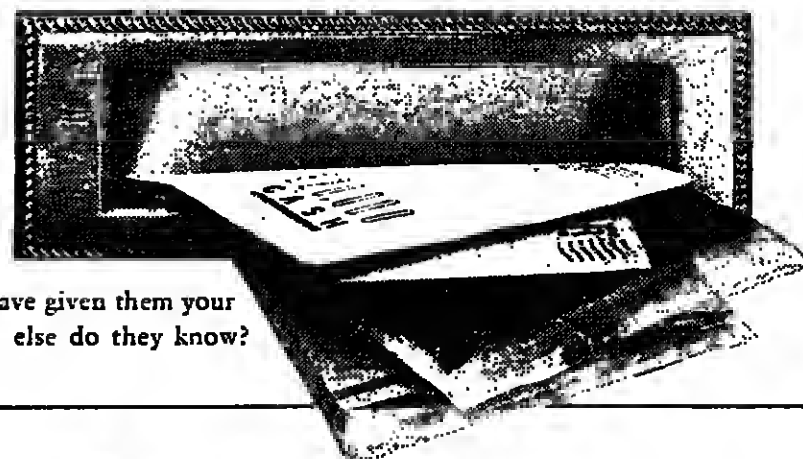
HOUSING DEPARTMENTS. You could miss out on housing
benefits if all the relevant information is not on their computers.



INLAND REVENUE. The amount of tax you pay is decided
by the information they hold on their computer about you.
Is it correct?



HIGH STREET RETAILERS. If you've moved into a property
where the previous tenant was a bad credit risk, that's how
retailers' computers might see you too.



MAIL ORDER COMPANIES. You may not have given them your
name and address in the first place, so what else do they know?

AND THEY'RE NOT ALONE.

Every organisation or company, that holds
personal data about you on computer has a
legal obligation to help you gain access to
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Of course we do not want to imply that
'data users,' especially the police, are not already
responding to requests from the public.

But we do want you to know that now,
you can see whether or not this information
is correct, and challenge it if it isn't.

If it is incorrect, or if your details are
somehow mixed up with someone else's, then
things can go wrong.

So it's important to get things right.

Should you have any trouble getting a
response there is an official, the Data Protection
Registrar, who is there to advise you. And who
can, if necessary, compel compliance with the
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For more details on the Data Protection

Act, or about how to get action on an enquiry,
simply send the coupon.

You are no longer alone when you want
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To: Information Services, The Office of Data Protection Registrar,
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The Data Protection Act

TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

The point of life is not the struggle, but the defeat, as this column has long believed. After bringing you the Jamaican bobsleigh team and Westfield FC of the Danair Combined Counties League, let the New Zealand ice hockey team join our select band of noble failures. They have just completed an ice hockey tournament in Belgium with the following record: 0-26 against Great Britain; 0-23 against Spain; 1-52 against Romania and an encouraging 2-21 against Belgium. In the match against Romania there was a goal every 69 seconds. "We came to learn, and we learnt a lot," said their manager, Graeme Glass. "We are not discouraged. We didn't mind losing so much as failing to score in two matches. It is a different style of play, but then again, perhaps we don't have any style at all."

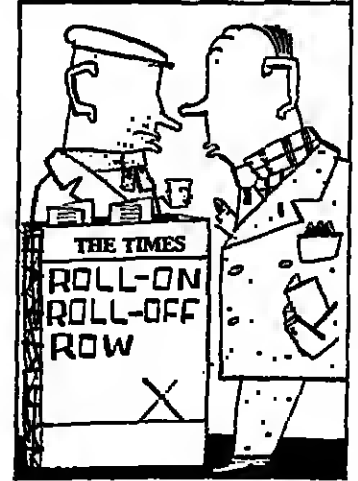
The New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation has been in existence three years. This Romanian match was not their worst defeat - Australia once beat them 58-0. The players each paid around £1,000 to get to the tournament, some of them taking out bank loans or second mortgages. The hero of the trip was, of course, the goalie, Neil Glass. He summed up with one of the most sanguine remarks of the year so far: "It's all the same to me whether it's 100-0 or 50-0."

Congratulations to James Jones, the newly appointed programme editor of Norwich Town of the East Anglian West Counties League. He is 12. The football club's previous programme editor left, and shortly afterwards James turned up selling programmes off his own bat. The club, awed by such dedication and entrepreneurial skills, took him on officially. At the last home game he raised £15 by selling programmes at 20p each. The average home gate is between 100 and 200.

Last week I told you of the fastest goal of all time. Now I have a letter from Dr Malcolm Irvine telling me about what he believes to be the fastest goal of all time. The occasion was a match between Torquay United and Cambridge United in January 1977. Torquay kicked off, the ball was passed back to defender Pat Kruse, who in turn passed back to the keeper. The keeper, coming out to collect the ball, slipped, and it trickled past him into the net. "Torquay 0, Cambridge 1 after about six seconds without a Cambridge player even getting near the ball," Dr Irvine wrote. The final score was 2-2, with Torquay scoring all four goals. Phil Sandercock adding a second own goal. "I remain, sir, a life-long Torquay supporter," Dr Irvine loyally concludes.

Meanwhile, my old friend and cricketing opponent Nicky Bird, former publisher at the Victoria and Albert Museum, claims the fastest ever own goal scored by a referee. Bird was acting as both player and referee in a match between the Y&A and Express Dairies a few weeks back, and, perplexed by his dual responsibilities (any responsibility is likely to perplex him) calmly headed into his own net after 90 seconds. The Dairies won 3-1.

BARRY FANTONI



"Ferries or the water off Paul Channon's back?"

Here is a new cricket record that is obscure even by the elevated standards this column has always strived for. Tom Moody, a promising bat from Western Australia, has been selected for the party to tour England this summer. If he plays in a Test, he will be the tallest specialist batsman ever to have played in an Ashes match. Moody is 6ft 8in. And should Curly Ambrose, a mere 6ft 7½in, be chosen for the Northamptonshire side to meet the tourists, he will have the unusual experience of another player looking down on him.

The tallest Ashes player so far is Bruce Reid, also 6ft 8in, who would have been Australia's main strike bowler this summer but for a back injury, the fast bowler's nemesis. The tallest Englishman in an Ashes match is Tony Greig at 6ft 7½in; and should Greig not be English enough for you, the honour must go to Alan Oakman, at 6ft 7in. (I wonder how Moody deals with the fast straight yorker?)

An English football team leads the nation back into Europe: yes, let us give a cheer for Sutton United. The GM Vauxhall Conference side has been invited to take part in a six-team tournament in Paris in May. The teams include two French third division sides, one from Morocco and two from Algeria (it was in Algeria that Albert Camus, footballer as well as philosopher and novelist, used to play). The invitation comes after Sutton's FA Cup run this season, in which they beat Coventry City.

As the anguished football managers of England look anxiously for the results of their frenzied trading this week ahead of the transfer deadline, they can look to the deal between Milan and Fiorentina as a model of smart dealing. In 1925, as a historical note, Charlie Buchan was transferred from Sunderland to Arsenal for £100 a goal. Milan have loaned Stefano Borgonovo to Fiorentina this season for 300 million lire, or £150,000. But for every goal he scores, Fiorentina receives 15 million lire (£7,500) from Milan. Borgonovo is playing so well that Milan are determined to have him back. If he finishes the season with 20 goals, he will not have cost Fiorentina a lira.

Washington
The Labour Party's review of foreign and defence policy is approaching completion after the talks here between myself and other members of a party delegation and senior American officials.

I doubt if any political party in Britain has examined any subject so exhaustively and painstakingly as has our group assigned to review defence policy. We have taken evidence from numerous organizations, most recently from representatives of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. We have also conducted a long series of overseas visits.

In Bonn and Paris, together with Martin O'Neill, our Shadow Defence Secretary, I have met the foreign and defence ministers of both West Germany and France. In Belgium we had long meetings with the Secretary-General and Supreme Commander of Nato, as well as the Belgian defence minister. Last month four of us were in Moscow.

Now, following my meeting last summer with President Reagan's Defence Secretary, Frank Carlucci, coupled with an inspection of the Trident base at Kings Bay, Georgia, we have rounded off our work in Washington.

Our talks here have certainly

provided substantial material for consideration - material supplied from such authoritative sources as General Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's National Security Adviser, and senior officials and experts in the State Department and the Pentagon. We also met congressmen.

Most encouraging was the determination in the new Bush administration to continue the work on arms control and disarmament begun by Reagan. We were told by Robert Kimmit, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, "Arms control is certainly a necessary part of defence policy. 1989 and 1990 are going to be two of the most active years in the history of arms control negotiation."

Any fears that a new president would falter in the two major negotiations initiated in the Reagan era were dispelled in the White House itself by General Scowcroft's firm assurance on Start (the talks aimed at reducing long-range nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent). "This is now our negotiation."

Gerald Kaufman reports on his talks with Bush officials

Boost for Labour review

Roger Harrison, deputy chief negotiator, told us at the State Department that Start is 80 per cent complete. Although the remaining 20 per cent of what will be a "massive document" includes most of the really difficult issues, Mr Harrison said he believed the political will was present on both sides to get these settled.

"If the Soviets want to make progress," he told us, "there is a very open door here." Ambassador Robert Blackwell, special assistant to President Bush in the National Security Council, added: "The President has put a very high priority on Start."

Nor was a successful conclusion to Start regarded as the end of the nuclear disarmament process. Talking to us in the Old Executive Office Building, Blackwell spoke enthusiastically about the need to "get rid of a lot of these nuclear weapons... thousands and thousands." Such further reductions, both Blackwell and General Scowcroft emphasized, must be achieved "in a stabilizing way".

Everyone we met in Washington stressed the key importance of the East-West CFE talks now taking place in Vienna aimed at reducing conventional forces in Europe. In his office in the State Department, Charlie Thomas, Senior Deputy Assistant, Europe, declared that "the nuclear deterrent is a function of the conventional imbalance... The problem starts not with nuclear weapons but with conventional weapons."

General Scowcroft said that one reason for the need, as he saw it, for nuclear weapons in Europe is the sharp asymmetry in conventional weapons. It is that asymmetry, which the Americans seek to correct, which governs the Bush administration's approach to the thorny issue of modernizing short-range nuclear weapons.

While Mrs Thatcher seems obsessed with getting a firm decision to modernize at the Nato summit in Brussels in May, the Americans are far more national. They certainly would like a

decision in favour of modernization. General Scowcroft put it like this: "We want a decision this year. We need a decision as early as it is possible to make."

At the Pentagon, Deputy Assistant Secretary John Woodworth said there was a need now to develop a successor to the Lance missile, which would cease to be a viable nuclear weapons system in the middle of the next decade. However, what was required at Brussels was reaffirmation of the need for a system rather than a specific deployment decision. Mr Thomas was concerned that the modernization issue had "a great potential for contaminating the summit", which had other important issues to consider.

While rejecting the Third Zero - getting rid of all short-range nuclear weapons from the Continent - President Bush's officials were not adamantly against ever negotiating on reductions in such weapons.

General Scowcroft was opposed to moving on to discussions on short-range systems

until he was "clear about what is going to happen on CFE". But he added: "If you can rectify asymmetry in conventional weapons, you can consider other systems."

As for Britain's role, Congressman Les Aspin, Democratic chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, said of post-Start negotiations, "I don't think you could do another one without bringing in the British and the French." And Blackwell declared that the roles of other countries "are not decisions to be made on the Potomac".

We in our review group agree with that. While we were in the Soviet Union Mrs Thatcher derided the idea of a British defence policy labelled "Made in Moscow". For once she was right. Labour's defence policy will be labelled neither "Made in Moscow" nor "Made in Washington". It will be made in Britain, for Britain.

General Scowcroft wished us well in our review, saying that we were engaged in "important work". Those of us charged with this review are deeply conscious of the responsibility that rests on us. I hope we can measure up to our task.

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The author, MP for Manchester, Gorton, is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

Dudley Fishburn

Victorian voice of reason

The name of John Bright, who died 100 years ago, is coupled in every schoolboy's mind with that of Richard Cobden. The pair were leaders of the two great battles of Victorian reform: the repeal of the Corn Laws and the struggle for universal suffrage.

Cobden, the elder man, was the thinker. Bright was the orator, the publicist and the pulverizer of opposition. While Cobden partly retired after the tariffs against the import of grain were removed, Bright continued to fight for another 43 years. His campaigns encompassed the full range of Victorian reform: as Britain changed from rule by the landed aristocracy to the "fierce democracy" of the urban, industrial masses.

Bright's "Victorian values" included free trade, the disestablishment of the Church of England and, particularly, the Church of Ireland; an end to the East India Company and more responsible government for India; abolition of the House of Lords; support for the northern states in the American civil war; the end to capital punishment (a much overlooked, but widely shared, Victorian value); the secret ballot; abolition of passports; a foreign policy of "pugnacious pacifism" and the need for a Channel tunnel.

By the time of his death on March 27, 1889, Bright had become (with Wilberforce) the greatest parliamentarian of the century not to hold important office.

The secret of John Bright's grip on Victorian society rested on a single strength that is almost impossible to recapture today: his oratory. Bright wrote little. He was a man of speech, and nothing fades so fast as the spoken word. While contemporaries who were less heralded in their lifetime, such as Walter Bagehot, have grown in stature with the influence of their writing, the voice of Bright, the country's "foremost orator", has been all but lost. It was a voice to

which Victorian Britain listened in great numbers and at very great length.

"Last night I lectured to a very large meeting of working men on 'the causes of the fall of wages'. I spoke two hours and then for 1½ discussed points raised," wrote Bright to Cobden in 1843. The Free Trade Hall in Manchester - he was for many years a Manchester MP - would repeatedly be filled to standing room as the eager industrialists of the city listened to an afternoon-long speech from the great man. His speeches from the back benches of the House of Commons regularly filled 20 columns of *Hansard*.

Bright spoke with enthusiasm and sarcasm, with a flow of statistics (something never before attempted in British politics) mixed with the language of the Bible and Milton, the stern Quaker's two favourite sources. He spoke in a resonating voice and in perfect prose, using notes that he would surreptitiously stuff into the top hat which he put in front of him.

But history best remembers epigrams rather than three-hour orations. Though some of Bright's phrases - "England, the mother of Parliaments", for example - have passed into the language, the power that he held over Victorian England seems now distant. His call for peace at the start of the Crimean war gives a flavour of what was in those great orations.

"The angel of death has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the beating of his wings... He takes his victims from the castle of the noble, the mansion of the wealthy, and the cottage of the poor and the lowly, and it is on behalf of all these classes that I make this solemn appeal."

Bright belonged to no political party. He loathed the "Conservatives" and bitterly hated Palmerston and the Whigs. His



political model was America with its universal ballot, strong industrial base, separation of church and state, and its absence of an aristocracy. (One of the problems of Britain's foreign policy was that it was "neither more nor less than a gigantic system of outdoor relief for the aristocracy".)

When many of John Bright's own class - he was a wealthy textile industrialist from Rochdale - supported the Confederate states in the American civil war, Bright rushed to the support of the Union. The aristocrats were happy to see the break-up of a rival power and many mill owners, starved of cotton, seemed equally happy to shelve their consciences. Even *The*

Economist, which had been founded in 1843 to support Bright's twin campaigns for the repeal of the Corn Laws and the end of capital punishment, showed signs of sympathy with the South.

Palmerston - "the hoary impostor" - *The Times* (Bright could not understand how any honest man could allow it into his home), and, shamefully, Gladstone, sided with the Confederates. Bright, alone among leading parliamentarians, urged support for the Union. "Magnanimity and not meanness should be our course in regard to a country in such extreme difficulty."

He corresponded with Abraham Lincoln; predicted that

America would rapidly grow to be the dominant economy in the world, and confessed to Mrs Harriet Beecher Stowe that he was an American at heart.

But the Americans, like everyone else, fell short of John Bright's most important measure and greatest legacy: free trade. Bright understood more clearly than Cobden and the other Corn Law reformers, more clearly than perhaps any man but Adam Smith, that free trade was the most effective foe of all privilege, prejudice and inhumanity.

He understood with a blinding insight, only glimpsed by others, that any impediment to free trade always incurred an unjustified cost that had to be paid for,

like a hidden tax, by every citizen in the land.

As early as 1843 he stood for election "as a free trader and therefore as the candidate for the working classes". This is the link - between free trade and social progress - that makes John Bright so attractive to a modern Conservative.

As British industry grew up into an establishment power of its own in Bright's old age, protectionists started to emerge among the manufacturing classes. Many of their sneaky phrases were the same as today: demands for "fair" trade rather than free trade, for "reciprocal" trading relations rather than open ones. (Only the bogus call for "level playing fields" was missing from those late Victorian protectionists, whose policies were so soon to bring about an eclipse of British prosperity.)

Bright would have none of it. Free trade was the weapon of peace. If a country refused to have "fair" trade with Britain that was its loss, not Britain's. Bright, veteran campaigner for progressive social policies, recognized that protectionism, however well disguised, was always the friend of reaction. This led him to positions that more muddled minds could not follow.

Many of his allies wanted "sanctions" against slave-produced sugar, claiming that its import both encouraged slavery and was unfair competition. Bright, the scourge of slavery, took the opposite view: the competition of free trade would liberate the slaves and benefit the British consumer. Free trade was a policy, both radical and progressive, from which only good could flow.

A century may have muffled Bright's ringing oratory but it has not silenced this clear call, as necessary to us now as it was to Victorian Britain.

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The author is Conservative MP for Kensington.

Commentary • JANET DALEY

To a wider appeal

What the Government has clearly been hoping to inspire, both in the nation's artistic life and in its higher education system, is an American model of private philanthropy. As the economy becomes more buoyant, and particularly as private individuals are allowed to keep more of their wealth, it was expected that there would be more scope for support of national institutions by participating citizens. Central government could withdraw from its unhealthy monopoly of academic and artistic subsidy, unhooking education and the arts from their centralized dependency.

What the desire to import American beneficence may have overlooked is that the tradition of educational and cultural patronage in the United States is deeply embedded in its historical development. In Britain, as in most old European societies, philanthropy and the promotion of the arts have always been associated with a hereditary aristocracy. The newly-rich could presume to enter into such patronage when their respectability was sufficient for them to qualify as possible entrants to aristocratic social circles. The endowment of an Oxford college or a major gift to a national museum was recognizable as a rite of passage into the inheriting classes.

The US had no aristocracy and created itself in deliberate opposition to such hierarchical societies. The self-made rich were themselves emigrants from countries whose upper classes

had oppressed their own forefathers. Gratitude for their liberation into an open and unstratified society was combined with a sense of responsibility. As the sole owners and creators of wealth, they possessed the only form of economic power which their new country had. By setting up educational trusts, creating universities and building concert halls and museums, they were paying their moral dues to a nation they felt they had helped to create, as well as establishing their social influence.

But the Fords and the Carnegies who set the precedents for philanthropy cannot really be emulated in modern Britain. Few contemporary individual (or even corporate) benefactors could afford to offer subsidy on a 19th-century scale. The Government's more realistic hope is that Britons will adopt the consistent donation of private funds, which are now an everyday convention among even modestly wealthy Americans.

An individual leaving a generous bequest to his alma mater, a local industrialist sponsoring a regional orchestra or building an art gallery, are commonplace in the United States. Most major corporations regard providing local art subsidy as part of their accepted civic duty. This sense of social responsibility on the part of the business community is largely absent here.

Industrialists are frequently pilloried for their short-sighted meanness in this regard, but British businessmen are no more

inherently selfish than their American counterparts; they have simply not seen themselves as part of the paternalistic benefactor class.

In Britain, "trade" has always been despised as a source of wealth. So much so that the business community, being outside the pale of social acceptability anyway, has largely opted out of the magnanimity stakes, particularly in the aristocratically-dominated cultural arena. In the US, corporate giving is more than a habit passed down from the founders of industry. It is part of the egalitarian attitude toward education and culture which permeates American life. America's Calvinist roots contain a profound conviction that education, of the broadest and most self-improving kind, should be for everyone. Not only should every child have the opportunity for higher education, but access to the fine arts should also be available to everyone, however provincial or socially unimpressive.

This missionary impulse to spread culture and learning to the great mass of the population has never been a feature of British life. Not only is high culture reserved for an elite but education in the true sense (as opposed to training) is thought appropriate only for a small minority. There is no educational option here which lies between the highly specialized A level/university route and vocational training. There is, in other words, no equivalent of the more general "college education" (of-

ten aptly described as a "liberal arts" degree) suitable for the averagely intelligent, which enables so many Americans to be articulate, self-respecting members of their society.

And perhaps most significantly, there is not the flexibility which allows such a broadly educated student to find within himself a capacity for higher educational achievement and then to progress by stages to levels of real academic excellence. To arrive at the highest reaches of intellectual activity in Britain is virtually impossible if one has not been set down in the right academic sheep-run from the start.

In this sort of climate, philanthropy on the universal, American scale is most unlikely to take hold. The US has paid a price for its premium on equality with a generally middlebrow, homogenized culture and a system of undergraduate education which is often far below our standards. It is a price which many Europeans would consider too high. But those who wish to encourage American-style generosity must be clear they cannot have it both ways. If higher education and high art are only for the privileged few then there are precious few people who will be prepared to contribute to them.

An intellectual life which is rooted in feudal attitudes sees crass populism as the only alternative to aristocratic snobbery. It may well be time to try for democracy.

The author is a writer and journalist.

MARCH 25 ON THIS DAY 1959



As Sir Edward Grey, Viscount Grey of Fallodon (1862-1933) had been Foreign Secretary from 1905 to 1916. He is remembered by historians as a statesman and by ornithologists as a writer on bird life.

GOLDEN AGE OF THE ENGLISH HOUSEHOLD

From our own correspondent

PARIS, MARCH 24
In a small but high-class restaurant near the Gare de l'Est, M. Jules Muller works as head waiter. With the minimum of encouragement, he is prepared to talk at length and with great feeling and simplicity about a vanished aspect of English life. From 1923 to 1928 he and his wife, now dead, were butler and cook-housekeeper to Lord and Lady Grey of Fallodon at Wilford Manor in Wiltshire.

When Lady Grey died in 1928, M. and Mme Muller left Lord Grey's service and, after a few months at the Savoy Hotel, returned to France.

M. Muller regards those days as the best of his life, and so, indeed, he makes them sound. The Greys were, in his testimony, model employers: "You wouldn't find our gentry treating their servants in the considerate manner that the Greys treated us," and he goes on to speak of the four huge meals a day, "plus morning tea" enjoyed by all the servants, and the consideration and sympathy invariably displayed by Lord and Lady Grey towards their employees.

It was a big household: five in the kitchen, a butler and foot-

man, housemaids, a lady's maid, and nursery staff. As well as Lord and Lady Grey, there were Mr David and Mrs Stephen Tennant, and Lord Glenconner, all of them the children of Lady Grey's first marriage with the first Lord Glenconner; and at the week-ends there were big parties. Yet the atmosphere of Wilford was that of "home" - the word is non-existent in French and the atmosphere is often lacking in France, which is, perhaps, the reason why French people who have seen it at close quarters are usually so enthusiastic.

In spite of the luxury of the life and the coming and going, Lord and Lady Grey, M. Muller emphasizes, were essentially simple people: "There were no orgies at Wilford," he says - a statement which is not difficult to believe of the half-blind former Foreign Secretary and his wife.

The Mullers were at Wilford for most of the time, although on occasions they did accompany the Greys to London, where Lord Grey once took M. Muller to Buckingham Palace as his footman in order that he might see the King and Queen. But, memorable though this was, it is upon the life at Wilford that M. Muller is most inclined to dwell; the way Lord Grey would every morning pick fresh flowers to take to his wife's room, the long hours spent by both Lord and Lady Grey in the aviaries, the difficulty of communicating in French with Lord Grey, the pleasure in the servants' hall - the Mullers and the lady's maid had their meals apart from the other servants - and, above all, the well-organized but simple luxury of the life in a large English country house, in an era that had still not quite ceased to be Edwardian. When Lady Grey died suddenly in 1928, it was, as M. Muller puts it, "as though we had lost a queen..."



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POLLS APART

Once every four years the people of the Soviet Union have gone through the motions of voting for their national legislature, the Supreme Soviet. They have entered the polling station, picked up a ballot paper with a single name printed on it, and placed it without more ado in the ballot box. The house-bound, hospital-bound and stragglers have had the ballot box brought to them.

A few brave souls might cross out the single name or spoil the ballot paper, but the result would be the same: a 99 per cent turn-out registering 99 per cent support for the single nominee. It was not just the Soviet Union's critics in the West who regarded the exercise as a cynical abuse of the democratic process. The result was, as the Soviet leadership acknowledged, an alienation of the people from political life.

The Supreme Soviet elections of 1989, the first stage of which is held tomorrow, are already different. How different, even Mr Gorbachev may not have envisaged when he announced the new arrangements last summer.

Then, he outlined a new body — the 2,250-strong Congress of People's Deputies — two-thirds of which would be directly elected in national elections. The Congress would elect a new Supreme Soviet of 422 deputies who would become full-time politicians holding office for a maximum of two terms or 10 years.

When details of the new electoral procedures were published last autumn, they incorporated numerous precautions to minimize the risks to the Communist Party and government establishment. The nomination process was hedged about with complex requirements for a large quorum at election meetings and vetting by electoral commissions.

The stipulation that there should be more than one candidate per seat was dropped. One hundred places in the new Congress were guaranteed to the Communist Party; another 650 were distributed among the so-called public organizations, ensuring that Communist Party members and activists have more than one vote — and possibly as many as seven or eight. The indirect election of the new Supreme Soviet meant that any maverick who somehow surmounted all the obstacles could — and still can — be weeded out.

Many of these precautions have already had their effect. True to form, the Central Committee nominated a slate of precisely 100 candidates, obviating the need for anything more than a token election for the party's allocation of seats. Constituencies in many parts of the country have followed suit. Residents in those regions will tomorrow have the choice only of accepting or rejecting the

nominated candidate. Yet the small opening that has been created in the Soviet election system has allowed through a far wider range of people and permitted the airing of a more diverse set of issues than could have been expected. In some areas, it has encouraged fervent public participation. It continues to surprise.

Only in the last week of the campaign has the strength of support for Mr Boris Yeltsin, the former Moscow party leader, become visible in street demonstrations in his favour. A sense of personal grievance combined with public responsibility seems to have inspired him to stand for election — and Muscovites have flocked to his support.

The Yeltsin bandwagon can hardly be welcome to the party leadership, which thought his career had been ended 18 months ago. His defiance of the authorities, however, has given Moscow voters a real choice.

Incipient democracy has been in evidence also at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, where Dr Andrei Sakharov's dogged campaign to be nominated for one of the Academy's congress seats has been rewarded with a re-run of the nomination process. For Dr Sakharov it was not justification enough for the "old guard" to cite tradition in support of their own nominations. He and his supporters stood out for a new style of selection — based on criteria of popularity and worthiness.

The other, and perhaps the most dangerous, areas for the party leadership in Moscow are the Baltic States, where anti-Communist and anti-Russian sentiment have combined to make the defeat of senior Communist officials a possibility. Deals have been done and rumours circulated in an attempt to minimize the damage to Moscow's authority. The Kremlin's response to unwelcome news from the Baltic will be one measure of how serious it is about introducing more democracy into the Soviet Union.

In each of these areas — in Moscow, in the Academy and in the Baltic States — the seed of democracy has germinated because individuals have been determined that it should. They have pursued their objective singlemindedly and often at great personal cost.

Such people are still few in number. They are the ones who have resisted all the pressure to accept ideological servitude and gone their own way.

If the results of tomorrow's elections show that the number of such people has increased, then wittingly or not Mr Gorbachev will have brought democracy in the Soviet Union a step closer. That can only be a benefit — to his own people, and to the West.

MR DE KLERK'S EASY TASK

Mr F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's putative new President, and his followers within the ruling National Party will doubtless permit themselves a small smile of triumph this Easter weekend. After a bruising battle between the old and the young lions of the Afrikaner tribe, Mr P.W. Botha has been brought to his senses by the bitter realization that he no longer enjoys the allegiance of his party or his people.

He sacrificed that allegiance and effectively signed his own political death warrant when he threatened to postpone a general election simply to ensure his own continuance in office. Faced with a choice between Mr Botha's survival and his own, the National Party finally left him in no doubt where its loyalties lay.

As Mr Botha prepares for his trek into the political wilderness, Mr de Klerk has a great deal of preparation to do. One task will be to adjust South Africa's extraordinary constitution to ensure that the divisions of the past few months will not be repeated. That will probably not be too difficult.

Much more seriously, after a decade of Mr Botha's rule, the country is immeasurably more isolated and substantially poorer. Its treasury has been drained not merely by the flight of foreign capital, but by regional wars — the price demanded by the army for enforcing security through the barrel of a gun — by a swollen bureaucracy and by the costs of coercing rather than negotiating with black South Africa.

The siege society over which Mr Botha presided has also bred a degree of corruption on the fringes of government which, if nothing else, gives ample credence to South Africa's claim to be an African state. Despite the promises of South Africa's "Prague spring" when, with Mr Botha temporarily out of the way, Mr de Klerk and his cabinet colleagues appeared to question the remaining fundamentals of apartheid, it is too early to say what this may bring.

Substantially younger, more accessible and flexible than his predecessor and with a more secure faith in parliamentary government, Mr de Klerk will almost certainly preside over the demise of the "securocracy", the pervasive security establishment which effectively supplanted civilian authority during Mr Botha's rule.

He will also benefit from a marginally more relaxed international environment created by the Angolan-Namibian settlement and by the Soviet Union's pressure on the African National Congress to negotiate with Pretoria rather than wait in vain for a military victory.

Whether or not Mr de Klerk will be able to climb through this window of opportunity will depend not merely on his political skills. He must show himself willing to abandon his commitment to the group rather than the individual as sole instrument for achieving a lasting political accommodation with South Africa's black majority.

The initial omens are promising. Although Mr de Klerk has his ideological roots in the right of his party, he has already shown a willingness to take on board the concerns of its more liberal wing.

He is young enough not to have been party to the construction of the apartheid edifice. But he is also astute enough to know that it cannot be maintained without entrusting continued power to the security establishment which he dislikes.

In his first years in power, anxious to secure his place in history, Mr Botha began the process of reform. He thus opened the floodgates to far greater change.

Mr de Klerk knows that his place in history will depend on whether, like Mr Botha, he tries to close the gates, or whether he can summon up the skill and the courage to ride the flood. As he contemplates that challenge he must know that getting rid of Mr Botha was, of all the tasks he must face, much the easiest.

Forest exploitation

From Mr B. N. Howell

Sir, Professor A. M. Ozorio de Almeida (March 11) might well have added that Britain, having been for centuries in the forefront of forest exploitation, is in no position to criticize Brazil for following our example. Having stripped 90 per cent of our own forest cover to produce, it appears, unwanted farmland, we might consider our own situation, which is far worse than that of Brazil.

Our profligate forces us to exploit more of the softwood resources of Canada, Scandinavia, and Russia than any country except Japan and USA — in fact some 14 per cent of all the fragile surplus of world supplies.

That this cost us (mostly for softwoods) £6.638 million in 1988 seems not to worry the present Government. Yet we have unused land suitable for softwood trees; a balance-of-payments problem; an obligation to contribute to saving the ozone layer; and this Government has failed to achieve its modest tree-planting target in every year, by a wide margin. Yours faithfully, B. N. HOWELL, Lakestead, Ivybridge, Devon.

Airport security

From Mr B. Adamczewski

Sir, I don't know from where Dr Swire (March 23) gets the information that "the [Lockerbie type] bomb would have easily been identifiable on X-ray". Our institute has pictures of these kinds of bomb and their X-ray machine images and they certainly do not allow an operator to identify them as a bomb easily.

The idea that the Lockerbie disaster could have been avoided, were it not for incompetence or negligence by British, US or German security authorities or airlines, is clearly not justified by the facts as available at the time and its propagation makes no contribution to the fight against this kind of terrorism.

It may even deflect public support from the measures that Western governments might have to take, once the real culprits and their likely state sponsors are identified. Yours faithfully, B. ADAMCZEWSKI (Deputy Director), Institute for the Study of Terrorism, 65 Blandford Street, W1, March 23.

Women who work

From Mrs Alison Maguire

Sir, I returned to work in 1977 in order to maintain my skills in a very fast-moving industry (computing). After paying for the care of my children out of net income I was left with £5 per week. Had tax relief been available, I would have used it to pay for a qualified nanny, but as it was I could not break even unless I used untrained mothers' help.

For the last nine years our Government has been led by a "working mother", yet qualified scientists like Dr Hutchinson (March 21) still need to calculate whether they can afford to go on using their scarce professional skills. Moreover, whatever arrangements Dr Hutchinson makes, at whatever the cost, pompous senior judges will still consider her to be an "unsatisfactory" mother (Kate Brown, Friday Page, March 17).

It really is almost enough to make me go into politics. Yours sincerely, ALISON MAGUIRE, Stable House, 19 High Street, Little Shelford, Cambridge, March 21.

Expanding scope of medical audit

From Dr B. J. Boughton

Sir, I attended many of the Birmingham medical audit meetings to which Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg refers in his letter of March 20. On average only four of the 120 consultants in the hospital attended these meetings, and Sir Raymond was never present himself, presumably because of the pressures of work at the Royal College of Physicians in London. One cannot help, therefore, being a little cynical about his own initiative to force other consultants to attend medical audit meetings and his attempt to portray this as a step forward.

But his proposals for a form of medical audit run for doctors and by doctors will do very little to improve the NHS and he should be challenged to outline the improvement in health care which he thinks his form of medical audit will achieve.

In direct contrast to the recommendations of the parliamentary White Paper, Sir Raymond clearly wishes to exclude hospital administrators from medical audit because he wishes it to be restricted to the clinical performance of doctors. Medical audit should however be seen as a powerful tool for solving many of the serious problems confronting the NHS and should concentrate itself with much more important matters than the clinical problems of the medical profession.

Administrators can understand it when consultants do not work their contracted NHS sessions or if patients have their admission to hospital cancelled or their operations delayed. They can understand if elderly patients with incurable diseases are kept alive in expensive kidney dialysis or intensive therapy units, only to die predictably as soon as this support is withdrawn. They can understand when one consultant treats only half as many patients as another, or uses half the entire hospital pharmacy budget on expensive experimental drugs.

They have little difficulty in understanding whether a consultant's junior medical staff are trained well enough to pass their speciality examinations and whether a consultant's professional standards are approved by his peers.

Hospital managers can readily understand the real issues which medical audit should address but, unlike consultants, the hospital managers have a duty to the NHS

and the patients to implement improvements. It is this potential interference in its professional hegemony that the Royal College of Physicians is trying to side-step. The college has a vital role to play in the training of specialists, but its proposals for medical audit are nothing less than a political move to protect the medical profession from the light of public scrutiny.

There are many deeply worrying changes laid out in the NHS White Paper, but Mr Clarke's proposals for medical audit are long overdue and he will render the British public a great service if he ignores the Royal College of Physicians on this particular issue. Yours sincerely, B. J. BOUGHTON, Department of Haematology, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Edgworth, Birmingham 15, March 21.

From Sir Christopher Pinsent
Sir, Ancient your leader, "Physicians judge themselves" (March 16) and comment by the President of the Royal College of Physicians, I recently attended as complainant's companion an inquiry arranged by the National Health Service into treatment prescribed by a consultant. The procedure involved two assessors, doctors in the same discipline as the consultant, whom they interviewed first. They then saw the complainant, and finally the consultant again.

The interview with the complainant was marked by much consideration and courtesy. The assessors' conclusions in their subsequent report, however, were four short incontrovertible platitudes carefully drafted to bear only lightly and by inverse implication on the failings complained of. It was difficult not to divine a rather stronger concern to save the consultant embarrassment than to be seen to be answering the patient's grievance.

The prevailing masonic cast of the Oath of Hippocrates, and injunctions by doctors' insurers not to admit fault — for doctors, like motorists, may indeed now be seen as at the controls of potentially dangerous machinery — can in combination form a serious obstruction to trust between patient and physician.

Does the White Paper really address this problem? Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER PINSENT, The Chestnuts, Castle Hill, Guildford, Surrey.

consultation process seven days a week, and at no time have we sought to gag anyone. Instead, the truth is that we have positively exhorted all members of the Bar to brief their MPs, whatever may be their opinions.

We have been advised that if the subject of debate is complex — which it is — and if the knowledge of the system, even by MPs and other professionals, is limited — which it is — it is essential to concentrate upon a few points; to simplify the issues; and to help people to explain those points. I believe that that advice is sound.

What the Lord Chancellor asked rhetorically was whether the leaders of the Bar were showing true independence of mind. We are certainly trying to do so — for instance, on the question of barristers' direct access to the lay client and the widest form of judicial preferment.

Yours faithfully, ROGER HENDERSON (Chairman, Public Affairs Committee of the Bar), 2 Hancock Buildings, Market, EC4, March 22.

Bar's 'hymn sheet'

From Mr Roger Henderson, QC
Sir, The Lord Chancellor is reported (March 16) as accusing the leaders of the Bar of trying to stifle other members of the Bar from voicing disagreement with the case that the Bar is trying to make. He did not make that accusation. He drew attention to a number of reports, including Bar News which referred to a briefing session where people were encouraged "to sing from the same hymn sheet".

The Bar consists of groups of practitioners who specialize in very different fields of legal work. The Green Papers, if implemented, would affect them very differently. We recognize this. Some have special concerns which conflict with the special concerns of others. All must be encouraged to speak freely, and we have taken great pains to try to elicit all the varying opinions and to encourage them all to voice their different concerns.

We consulted all chambers before the Green Papers were published, in anticipation of radical review. We have continued that

Abbey flotation

From Mr Cyril Cox

Sir, As a personal investor with Abbey National Building Society and the first-named trustee of other accounts, I have received several voting forms.

The transfer document makes it clear that only one vote can be exercised and draws attention to the potential conflict of interest from which it appears that even if I forgo the vote in respect of my personal account and exercise the vote for flotation in respect of one trust account some beneficiaries could have a claim against me, and probably all if I voted against or abstained.

Is the only solution for all in a similar position that the vote will be against flotation?

Yours faithfully, CYRIL COX, Lower Park, The Walls, Mitley, Manningtree, Essex, March 20.

Mt Athos curbs

From the Very Reverend Milun Kostic

Sir, I would like to endorse Derek Hill's plea (March 9) for an easing of restrictions on the number of Eastern Orthodox pilgrims allowed to visit the Mount Athos monasteries. While the Greek authorities should be congratulated on their success in preventing an annual influx of casual tourists disturbing the prayer and peace of the monastic community, their current practice of allowing in only a very small number of genuine pilgrims has caused anguish to many good Christians.

At present only a few non-Greeks are allowed to enter Athos daily. The quota covers not only Western visitors but also pilgrims who belong to the Orthodox churches of Eastern Europe,

Tachograph timetable

From Mr F. Kay

Sir, Chris Partridge's article, "Road's end for smoking lorries" (March 16) stated that tachographs would be phased out in 1992. With 500,000 instruments in service on vehicles with an average life of eight years the transition to a computerised device would be necessarily slow.

In addition, about a quarter of the heavy commercial vehicle fleets in the UK operate only one or two vehicles and are unlikely candidates for "computerised tachographs" even if the EC regulations were to be changed to permit their use to control drivers' hours.

Our forecast is that tachographs will still be in service on many, if not most, commercial vehicles in the year 2000. Yours faithfully, F. KAY (Director and General Manager), Lucas Kienzle Instruments Ltd., 36 Gravelly Industrial Park, Birmingham 24, March 17.

including my own — the Serbian Orthodox Church.

I know of many Serbs both from Yugoslavia and the Serbian diaspora in the West who have been prevented by Greek red tape from making a pilgrimage to the splendid Serbian monastery of Hilandar, founded in 1219 by St Sava, the first archbishop of the autocephalous Serbian Church. Travelling from afar, some of them reach Salonika only to find out they cannot proceed to Athos because the Greek authorities refuse to grant them entry permits as the daily quota has already been used up.

Imagine the disappointment of these devout Christians who have to turn back having failed to fulfil the long-chested dream of paying their respects to the monastery which has played (and still plays) such an enormously important

Not so easy to clean up the place

From the Leader of the London Borough of Hounslow

Sir, Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley, backed by the Prime Minister, has declared war on, *inter alia*, litter on motorways (report, March 18).

When the Prime Minister returned from Israel in 1986, she criticised the amount of litter on the M4 between Heathrow and London. At that time we pointed out that we acted as agents for her Department of Transport to do this work, and that we were being given completely inadequate funds to do the job properly.

What has happened since then? My officers have repeatedly battled with the Department of Transport to allow us to increase the frequency of our litter-picking — which has to be done by hand — on the verges and central reservation of this part of the M4. Until 1986 we were only allowed a frequency of three times a year, but because of our strong protests the frequency was increased to 13 times a year.

Then out of the blue, on February 23 this year, the department asked if we could use some of their surplus funds to increase the frequency for the next four weeks. Were they aware of this impending clamour call for action?

Of course we agreed and set up a weekly schedule. But the department made it clear this was not a radical change of heart, but a "one-off" operation, for which they will be paying £6,000.

You should also be aware that no funds are made available to cut grass on the motorway unless it has grown so high that it creates a safety hazard, such as obscuring motorway signs. Yet we believe that if the verges were kept neatly cut it would discourage motorists from littering them, and make it easier for us to clean.

To place the blame on the shoulders of local authorities is blatantly unfair, and privatising the motorway cleaning service will not make the slightest difference to the present situation unless the

Department of Transport provides adequate funding.

For the Prime Minister to suggest that young volunteers should tackle the problem ignores the inherent dangers involved in working on one of Britain's busiest highways, where extensive training and experience in safety methods are essential.

Yours sincerely, DAVE WETZEL, Leader, London Borough of Hounslow, The Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Twickenham, Middlesex, March 20.

From Mr W. G. V. Balchin
Sir, "A £1 million campaign to clear up litter on motorways and major trunk roads was launched by the Department of Transport yesterday at the personal behest of the Prime Minister."

Excellent! But what a pity that Mrs Thatcher doesn't travel by British Rail. Surplus sleepers, redundant rails, crushed concrete, and other debris arising from maintenance and construction work litter the lines, and to this the urban population has added in many areas a generous contribution of battered bedsteads, mouldy mattresses, discarded chairs and a general litter of bottles, cans and paper — all of which presents a sorry view of Britain to the tourist and traveller.

Sadly, as well as constituting an eyesore, the debris is also readily available for vandals to build obstructions across the lines.

Furthermore, if we are to make a real effort to create a clean and healthy environment shouldn't something be done about the graffiti on the trains, and the tons of raw untreated sewage deposited daily on the tracks by rail travellers?

Yours faithfully, W. G. V. BALCHIN, 10 Low Wood Rise, Rye, Rye, Wokingham, March 19.

Veterinary closures

From Major Derek Allhusen

Sir, The decision, to be taken shortly, whether or not to close the Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, at Cambridge, and the Scottish Veterinary School, at Glasgow, is clearly one of great importance for the future of veterinary education and research in this country.

The closure of the Cambridge Veterinary School, based at one of the finest scientific universities in the world, near to Newmarket, with its world reputation as a centre for thoroughbred breeding, training, racing and practical equine research, would be a major setback to veterinary knowledge in Britain.

I have been president of the university's riding club these last 21 years. Our policy has always been to encourage student vets to learn to ride in order to obtain greater practical knowledge and experience with horses which will benefit them later in their professional careers.

One of the strongest arguments in favour of keeping these two great veterinary schools is that we

have now ceased to be able to train a sufficient number of vets in Britain for our own requirements and a high proportion of foreign-trained vets are having to be admitted to this country from abroad.

If the Cambridge and Glasgow veterinary schools closed there might well be a totally inadequate number of vets available in the next decade sufficiently acquainted with our national requirements.

Besides, the ever-increasing concern of the British public over food hygiene and the necessity for a much closer supervision of the source of our food from livestock and poultry will put further pressure on our veterinary profession.

I believe that if the decision to close is taken it will be seen in years ahead to have been ill-conceived and ultimately detrimental to the health of the British public and the cause of animal welfare in general.

Yours etc, DEREK ALLHUSEN, Manor House, Claxton, Norwich, Norfolk, March 22.

The measure of Gill

From the Editor of The Tablet

Sir, Mr Ronald MacDonald (March 21) questions whether *The Tablet* can be considered a truly Catholic weekly after publishing Dr Nutgens's estimate of Eric Gill. He thereby implies that a review can be taken to indicate editorial approval. Of course it cannot. I do not tell my reviewers what to say. Dr Nutgens is a highly valued contributor to *The Tablet* who knew Gill personally. He has a right to express his judgement.

If Mr MacDonald does want to read *Tablet* reviews as expressing editorial opinion, he might like to look at the lead review in the issue of March 11, published shortly after that of Dr Nutgens, specifically on the subject of incest.

Dr Nutgens tried to face the huge problem Fiona MacCarthy's biography raises for anyone who

takes Eric Gill seriously as a religious believer. Those who assume, in the light of the revelations about his sexual behaviour, that his religious commitment can be dismissed as hypocrisy have no problem. There is, for them, no circle to be squared. For those — and I am sure they are right — who do not take that escape route, there has to be an attempt to understand how the man who could carve the Stations of the Cross in Westminster Cathedral could also have habitually indulged in sexual acts which can only be described as depraved.

We cannot get inside Gill's mind but Dr Nutgens tried to do so and his review seemed to me to offer some enlightenment about the way things were seen in the Gill circle.

Yours etc, JOHN WILKINS, Editor, *The Tablet*, 48 Great Peter Street, SW1.

Public funding

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, The debate about the Government's intention to fund the Grant Maintained Schools Trust (parliamentary report, March 21) should not be allowed to obscure an important principle. It is quite proper for an independent voluntary organisation, whether a charity or not, to use public money for the full range of its

activities, including campaigning, provided that it conducts itself responsibly and does not allow itself to become involved in party political activity. It follows that the Government is entitled to provide such funds.

Whether it is always wise for campaigning voluntary organisations to be dependent on public funds is, of course, quite another question. Yours faithfully, USHA PRASHAR, Director, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, WC1.

Names in fiction

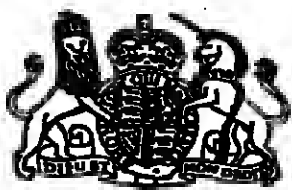
From Mr A. D. Petty

Sir, Mrs Elspeth Huxley (March 13) need not fall back on Smith, Jones, and Brown for her characters. The 18th-century poet Christopher Smart invented a rich collection of pseudonyms for himself between spells in the asylum.

Ebenezer Pentwistle, Zosimus Zephyr, Mrs Midnight, Ferdinando Foot — authors would be safe with them. Or would they?

Yours faithfully, A. D. PETTY, 75 Parkanur Avenue, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 24: The Princess Royal, attended by Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam, arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham this afternoon in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight from Budapest.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend the 1989 Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race at I.I.S.

St Godric's College

St Godric's College welcomes former students and their partners to the Diamond Jubilee Ball on Saturday, May 20, at the Huntington Club, Ranelagh Gardens, SW6. Tickets £28 from the Ball Secretary, 2 Arkwright Road, Hendon, NW3 6AD. Tel: 01-435 9831.

Dinner

University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.
Dr Gareth Owen, Principal of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and Mrs Owen, were the guests of honour at a dinner at the college on Wednesday attended by members of the college council and senate on the occasion of Dr Owen's retirement. Sir Melvyn Rosser, president of the college, presided. A guest of Dr Owen, Mr David Griffiths, was unveiled and presented to the college.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev S R Paul Spilsbury, Vicar, St Peter, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, diocese Bristol; to be also Rural Dean of Westbury and Severnside, same diocese.
The Rev Nigel J Stone, Curate, St Saviour and St George W St Andrew, Battersea, diocese Southwark; to be Parish Priest, St Paul, Brixton, same diocese.
The Rev Edward Swinerton, Vicar, Hambleton, diocese Blackburn; to be Vicar, Barnacre w Calder Vale, same diocese.
The Rev Bernard J Wigan; to be Curate (non-stipendiary ministry), St Paul, Brighton, diocese Chichester.

Withdrawals of acceptance
The Rev Donald I Haynes has withdrawn his acceptance of the appointment as Tutor and Chaplain to Whittington College, diocese Southwark.
The Rev William E Hassall, Vicar, Genshaw, diocese Lincoln; has withdrawn his acceptance of the parish of Buwell, Carlton Road and Tibenham, diocese Norwich, because of ill health.

Church of Scotland
The Rev G Gary Fletcher to Ardeer, Stevenston.
The Rev Elizabeth S S Kenny to Canoch.
The Rev Kenneth L Johnston from Blairbeth Rodger Memorial, Glasgow, to Annbank.
The Rev Robert J Stewart from Bothwell to Orwell, linked with Portmuck.
The Rev Reginald F Campbell from Castleton and Slaughter to Kildrum, Cumbernauld.
The Rev James M Davies from Carmyle, linked with Kenmuir Mount Vernon, Glasgow, to St Stephen's, Aberdeen.
The Rev John M Paterson from Flowerhill, Airdrie, to St David's Memorial, Kirkcaldy.
The Rev Jean Stewart to return from Kildalton and Ca.

Clifford Longley

Inquest on the Enlightenment

The Rushdie affair caught Western culture off-guard. For years those who like to think about the past and future of civilisations had been thinking serious thoughts more troubled than before, but academically and without a sense of urgency. Was religion over? Or was it the Enlightenment which was over? Was the light of Western civilization beginning to dim, and if so which candles were they that had gone out? It was a good subject for a learned paper.

But suddenly the Enlightenment and religion were in deadly collision - not with the gently decadent Christianity of the West but with fundamentalist Islam of the East - and everyone's gut reaction was straight from Voltaire. But the stirring slogans from the start of that new movement in human consciousness look less confident two centuries later, when the ideas sound like clichés and no one would defend to the death the Nazis' right to drive six million Jews, with campaigns of words as much as with gangs of thugs, into the gas chambers.

There is perhaps no more serious topic to talk about than this. The Enlightenment fed so many tributaries into politics, philosophy, morality, literature and almost every other working of the modern mind that if indeed it is now a spoilt and stagnant source, those who have lived by its banks must start to think about a move to somewhere more fertile.

The Enlightenment's old enemy was dogmatic religious faith, so-called superstition. It is still around unvanquished, and has learnt a few good tricks from the battle, even absorbing into its own system some of the Enlightenment's best achievements. "Human rights" is virtually a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church, for Archbishop Lefebvre was

excommunicated for denying it, thereby completing one of the great circular ironies of Christian history. Voltaire should have been alive to marvel at it.

The inquest on the Enlightenment has already begun, perhaps indecently as it cannot yet be said for certain that there is a corpse. It has begun under the unlikely auspices of the British Council of Churches, but it is rapidly drifting into a movement of its own with secular as well as religious input. In fact those churches cannot be excluded from the list of all those other fruits of the Enlightenment, for their temper, if not their doctrine, is modern liberal Protestantism, an inconvertible school of theology without the Age of Reason. An examination of religion is not a bad place to start an examination of the Enlightenment, as Karl Marx almost said.

Clustering round the first theological project in this movement are growing groups of scientists, doctors, historians, educationalists and similar disciplines. Although the phenomenon started in Britain it has grown tentacles in Europe, north and south America, even, it is said, in Korea. Its seminal work was "The Other Side of 1984" by Bishop Leslie Newbigin, which was commissioned by the council of churches in 1982 as not much more than a shot in the dark. But he hit his target squarely, and in terms which did not demand either a commitment against the Enlightenment or a commitment to dogmatic religion in order to join the conversation. The broader movement has hardly got its head above the somewhat limp signboard "The Gospel and Our Culture".

A turn-off or not, the name does nevertheless point to a key concept in

post-Post-Enlightenment study: that it is impossible even to begin the exercise from an intellectual position entirely within the culture of the post-Enlightenment era; there has to be one foot, or at least a toe or two, planted on something right outside the system. Otherwise, as one critic has commented, it is like trying to move a bus while sitting inside it.

During previous phases of the interchange between religion and Western culture, it was the culture which judged religion, and under such judgement religion sheepishly backed away from those parts of its belief which were most at risk from Enlightenment ridicule. Miracles and resurrections were particularly ridiculous, so they had to be "reinterpreted" in a language intelligible to modern sensibility.

In this new phase, however, there is no longer such a mood of philosophical intimidation. Dogma is no longer a dirty word, not least because one of Newbigin's achievements was to demonstrate how the apparently self-contained ideas of post-Enlightenment science and philosophy were in reality far from self-evident or objectively provable, but were themselves riddled with dogma. He didn't invent the point, for this is a movement with several beguiling, but he focused it.

If science and secular philosophy rest on assumptions no more nor less secure than religious faith and of the same dogmatic character, then one of the key illusions of the Enlightenment has been shattered and religion need no longer cower in the corner. It is a basic shift of perception.

Before, the teachings of the Enlightenment were "true", in the sense of being the furthest point yet reached in mankind's quest to understand reality; and religion was an atavistic philosophical or sociological

phenomenon which that "truth" had somehow to analyse and explain.

Now, it is the teachings of religion - in this case the Christian religion - which are awarded the status of a prior truth, and the culture gathered round the Enlightenment which is the phenomenon to be analysed and explained.

The most subtle insult to the Enlightenment is the recent trend to apply the insights of so-called "missiology" to it. For many years European churches with missions in Africa and Asia had been worried about the impact of Christianity on culture. They worried about preserving Christianity from contamination by local pagan cults; gradually they also realized that the Christianity they were implanting was infiltrated by European cultural assumptions which were also not "part of the Gospel" itself. These were the distortions that missionaries tried to identify and eliminate; and they concluded that there were good things and bad things in the local "native" culture, some to be rejected and some to be converted into an emerging indigenous version of Christianity, that was genuinely African or Asian yet still genuinely Christian.

It is part of the new missiological thinking to see the Enlightenment as no more than the equivalent local native culture of Europe, even to see in it equivalents to the magical cults, witch-doctors and superstitions that the first Christian missionaries found in Africa. They too are therefore subject to rejection or conversion. But that is far from treating it as the leading edge of mankind's objective search for truth. And, it must be admitted, this is to see it not so differently from the way that Muslims see it - though with more love, less incomprehension and disgust.

Time-capsule house opens to the public

By John Young

Calke Abbey, near Derby, "the house that time forgot," which the National Trust acquired in 1985, will open to the public for the first time today.

Visitors will find themselves in a Victorian "time capsule", an eccentric place, much of it left deliberately shabby, the home of a family which for nearly three centuries largely shut itself off from the world.

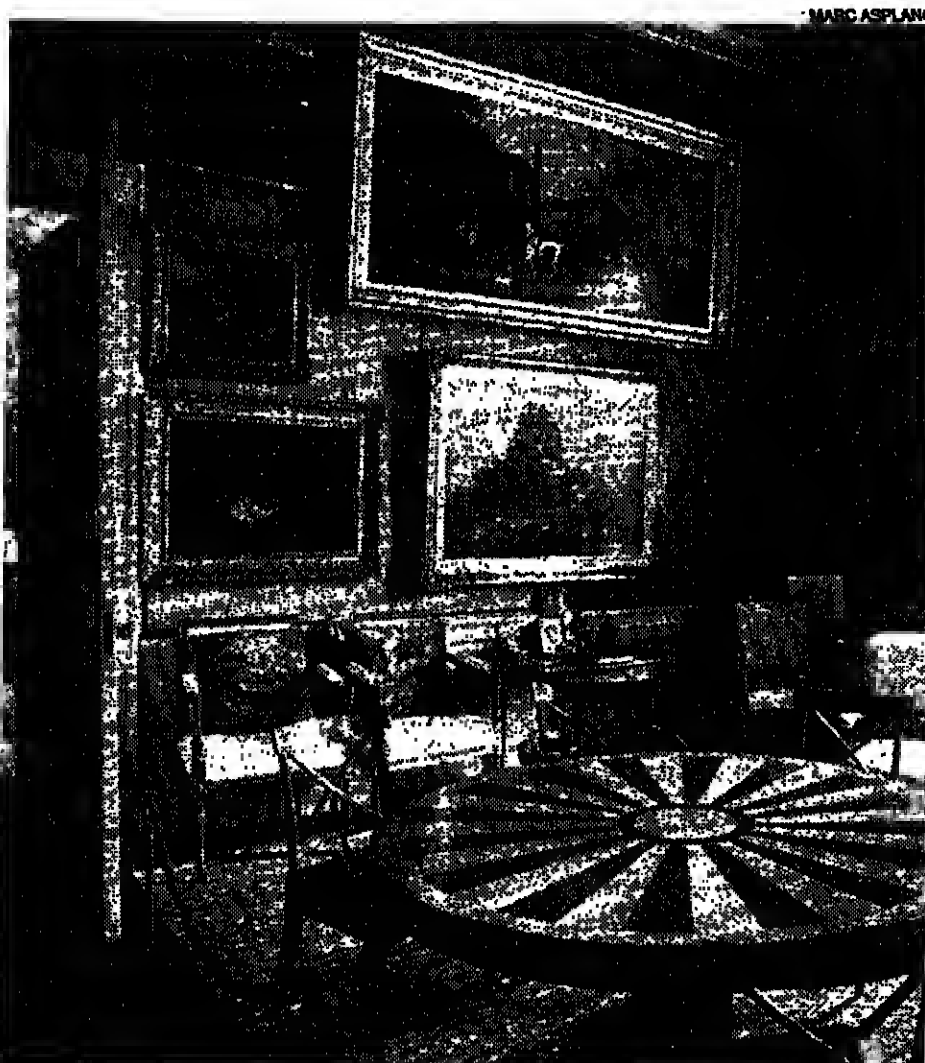
Few people had heard of Calke Abbey until in 1981 Mr Henry Harper Crewe, its owner, offered it to the nation, with the surrounding landscaped park and nearly 7,000 acres of farmland to meet tax liabilities of about £8 million. After protracted negotiations a deal was agreed where the Government accepted the house and about 1,000 acres of agricultural land, which forms the park's setting.

In March 1985 the house and the estate were formally handed over to the trust, together with a £7.5 million "rescue package" to pay for future repairs and maintenance. The Government provided £4.5 million through the National Heritage Memorial Fund; the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (English Heritage) and the trustees of the Harper Crewe estate each contributed £1 million and an anonymous benefactor a further £750,000. The trust undertook to find the balance and more than

£500,000 has since been raised through an appeal. The house was built by Sir John Harper on the site of a twelfth century Augustinian priory. It owes its present appearance largely to his grandson, Sir Henry, who had aristocratic pretensions, adopted the family name of Crewe to which he had no entitlement and outraged his contemporaries by marrying a chambermaid.

The eccentric family character was exemplified by his great grandson Sir Vaneau, who amassed a huge collection of stuffed birds and mammals, mounted heads, shells, birds' eggs and a curious range of antiques which still dominate the furnishings.

"We've gone to enormous lengths to keep the house as we found it, despite the huge programme of repairs," Mr James Turner, the trust's regional director for the East Midlands, said. The highest attraction however is likely to be the Calke State Bed, originally built for King George II and later given by his daughter-in-law, Queen Caroline, to Lady Harpur as a wedding present. It was never used and the colours of the Chinese silk bed hangings have survived in pristine state. From June it will be displayed in a controlled atmosphere within a 12-ft high glass box, which will protect it from twentieth century pollution.



The fine paintings and inlaid table in the Breakfast Room at Calke Abbey.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.D. Adamson and Miss S.K. Andrews
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs John Stuart Adams, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Kay, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.H. Andrews, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr W. Annett and Mrs S.L. Berenger-Sims
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr and Mrs W.N.F. Annett, of Chiltoe Foliat, near Hungerford, and Suzanne, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin E. Berenger, of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Ceylon.

Mr N.M. Binks and Miss S.L.M. Hoskins
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr S. Binks, MB, BS, MRCCOG, and Mrs J.M. Binks, of Sibsey, Lincolnshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr R.E. Hoskins, OBE, RN (Retd), and Mrs E. Hoskins, of Palmwoods, Australia, formerly of Rowlands Castle, Hampshire.

Mr J.G. Kerrigan and Mrs J. McSheffery
The engagement is announced between Gordon Kerrigan (Group Captain, RAF Retd), of Grange Court, Edinburgh, and Jean McSheffery, of Morningside, Edinburgh.

Mr J.P. Lonsdale and Miss F.M. Booth
The engagement is announced between Joseph, son of Mr and Mrs G.J. Lonsdale, of Ilford, Essex, and Tanya, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Booth, of Allstree, Derby.

Mr M.J. Lovell and Miss H.E.P.A. Gibbons
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs E. Lovell, of Axminster, Devon, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Gibbons, of Chelsea, London. The wedding will take place in Herefordshire.

Mr A.J.E. Dowse and Miss C.A. Brett
The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr J.E. Dowse and the late Mrs Jose Dowse, of Cuffley, Hertfordshire, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs L.I. Brett, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Mr N. Evans and Miss L.M.P. Conner
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Stuart Adams, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Kay, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.H. Andrews, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.J. Fothergill and Miss L.M.P. Conner
The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr and Mrs Michael Fothergill, of Caytham, Shropshire, and Lucinda, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs S.H. Andrews, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr P.R. Holmes and Miss L.M. Rawlings
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr D.A. Holmes, of Andover, and Mrs Y.A. Holmes, of Cobham, and Lucy, daughter of Professor and Mrs Michael D. Rawlings, of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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Mr J.P. Mytton and Miss L.M.P. Conner
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs David R.T. Mytton, of Quince House, Bilsington, Ashford, Kent, and Jean, daughter of Mr and Mrs John James Krantz, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr A.H. Peake and Miss L.M. Griggs
The engagement is announced between Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Gordon Peake, of Perthshire, and Anne, second daughter of the late Mr Frank Griggs, and Mrs G. Griggs, recently of Jersey.

Mr G.E.K. Schmidt and Miss L.M. Rawlings
The engagement is announced between Karl, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. Schmidt, of Aberystwyth, Gwent, and Denise, the daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Leathbarrow, of Forthby, Merseyside.

Dr A.D. Wolfe and Dr K.J. Whitchello
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Wolfe, of Radyr, Cardiff, and Karen, daughter of Mrs Sandra Whitchello, of Potts Wood, Kent, and the late Mr Brian Whitchello.

Mr D.M.J. Woodhead and Miss N.J. Herd
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Dr R.J. and Dr Z.M. Woodhead, of Timperley, Cheshire, and Nicola, daughter of Dr and Mrs G.I.C. Herd, of Wantage, Oxfordshire.

Marriage
Mr S.A. Zaman and Miss S. Shamsia
The marriage took place on Friday, March 14, in Sacramento, California, between Mr. Acif Zaman and Miss Sheila Shamsia. A reception in London is to be held at Leeds Castle on Saturday, June 3.

OBITUARIES

PROF J. OTWAY-RUTHVEN

Historian of medieval Ireland

Professor Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven, one of the foremost authorities on medieval Irish history, who died on March 18 in a Dublin nursing home at the age of 79, was a woman of formidable intellect and distinguished academic achievement.

She was born in 1909 into a well-known Ascendancy family whose seat was at Castle Otway in Co Tipperary. Her father was killed in the First World War. On her mother's side she was related to Roger Casement: a connection of which she seldom spoke.

Otway-Ruthven was educated in Dublin and read History at Trinity College where she took a first-class degree. She was elected to a non-foundation scholarship in 1929 - almost unusual honour for a woman at that time - and subsequently became the first woman fellow of the college in 1968. In 1932, she was elected to a research scholarship in Girton College, Cambridge. Six years later she returned to Trinity where she remained until her retirement.

Known as "The Or", her tall, spare, mannish figure striding across Front Square was familiar to generations of students and she is remembered by many for acts of kindness.

In 1951, she was elected Lecky Professor of History, a Chair which she occupied until her retirement and, in the same year, was made a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

She was Ireland's most distinguished medieval historian. In 1939 she published *The King's Secretary and The Cistercian Office in the 15th Century* which firmly established her reputation. Her *History of Medieval Ireland*, published in 1968, remains the standard work on the subject.

She wrote articles for many publications and edited texts for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, of which she was a member for many years. Funded by the Leverhulme Foundation, she was happy to reconstruct the lost rolls of the Medieval Irish Chancery. The completion of this work was prevented by ill health but the first part will be published shortly by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

Otway-Ruthven was always active in the affairs of TCD and was the first Dean of the new Faculty of Arts (Humanities). She became treasurer of the Academic Staff Association when it became unionized and joined the Irish Federation of University Teachers: an unusual interest for someone from her traditional academic background. A keen gardener, she specialized in rock plants and won many prizes.

She was a staunch and traditional member of the Church of Ireland.

A severe stroke had confined her to a nursing home since shortly after her retirement.

She was unmarried.

PROF STANLEY WIJESUNDERA

Expanding education in Sri Lanka

The tragic death at the age of 65 of Professor Stanley Wijesundera in his laboratory in Colombo at the hands of extremist gunmen on March 8 has deprived the scientific world and the international educational scene of an outstanding and delightful figure.

Wijesundera made important contributions in many spheres in and outside Sri Lanka. Foremost a notable biochemist, he played a leading part in building up the department of biochemistry in the University of Colombo where he was Professor and Chairman.

Between 1979 and 1988 he served as vice-chancellor of the university where his range of organizational skills and diplomacy became evident and he was a source of wide counsel in the development of his country's national scientific policy.

Despite troubled times he saw through a massive programme of development which was to influence the whole area of higher education nationally. Successively he served on a number of important committees in Sri Lanka such as the university grants commission and was chairman of the committee of vice-chancellors and directors.

In the international sphere Wijesundera was an outstanding member of the council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities from 1979 and served as its chairman in 1984-85 contributing in no small measure to its expanding role. In recognition of this distin-

guished service to ACU the Symonds Award for 1985 was bestowed upon him.

Stanley Wijesundera was born on December 6, 1923, and educated at Trinity College and Dharmajaya College, Kandy, before entering the University of Ceylon (as it was) where he gained a first in chemistry.

In 1950 he became a member of St Catherine's College, Oxford, joining in the searches of the department of biochemistry in the group led by the late D. D. Woods where he gained a BSc and a DPhil. Stanley Wijesundera was an able researcher with an interest in microbiology and on his return to Sri Lanka he widened his interests in biochemical problems proffered by local national needs. But Stanley Wijesundera was also a talented and dedicated teacher who responded with notable effectiveness to the multilingual demands necessitated by a diverse student body.

Four months ago his retirement was marked by affectionate appreciation and it is especially sad that his plan to return to active research in his old department was so suddenly cut short.

In other aspects of life he had an active interest in rural life and in the cultural heritage of Sri Lanka and he held it to be a special privilege that he was the chief lay custodian of the Kelaniya Maha Vihara temple.

Throughout his career he was ably supported by his wife Anjoia who, with two sons and two daughters, survives him.

DR JOHN DURRANT

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran writes:

Further to the obituary on Dr John Durrant (March 13) may I - as a one-time senior Science scholar of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and for twenty years an Honorary Fellow - also record how much Selwyn College and generations of its students have owed, and will owe, to his planning capabilities and foresight.

It was entirely due to his efforts that this one-time small college was able to extend its campus on both sides of Grange Road, Cambridge, to enable new buildings to be built to provide not only accommodation and facilities for nearly a hundred post-graduate research students, but also to more than double

the accommodation and facilities for undergraduates and under-graduates.

It was also entirely due to his initiative that the College has its present magnificent building, which includes the new Senior Combination room, a junior Combination room and senior guests rooms.

Durrant became an eminent expert witness in many patent actions, both in this country and in Commonwealth countries in which I was Counsel, and was frequently praised by the Courts for the clarity of presentation of scientific matters.

The two highly successful text books in chemistry referred to in the obituary were of course, written jointly with his wife, a brilliant scientist.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Brian Bailey, chairman, Health Education Authority, 66; Mr Humphrey Burton, television producer, 38; Lord Crawshaw, 56; Professor Sir Raymond Firth, anthropologist, 88; Professor Sir Patrick Forrest, surgeon, 66; Mr Robert Fox, theatrical producer, 37; Miss Aretha Franklin, singer, 47; Sir Peter Gubbings, chairman, Anglia Television Group, 60; Mrs Penelope Gilliat, writer, 57; General Sir James Glover, 60; Mr Benjamin Hanbury, racehorse trainer, 43; Mr David Hicks, interior designer and author, 40; Professor Sir Norman Jeffries, ophthalmologist and gynaecologist, 82; Lord Jessel, 85; Mr Elton John, singer, 42; Sir David Lean, film director, 81; Sir Bernard Miller, former chairman, John Lewis Partnership, 85; Mr Leif Mills, trade unionist, 53; Mr Peter Orchard, chairman, De La Rue Company, 62; Lord Quinton, 64; Mr A.J.P. Taylor, historian,

83; Lord Tennyson, 70; Mr Peter Walker, MP, 57. TOMORROW: Colonel Sir Michael Ansell, former director, Horse of the Year Show, 84; Mr Graham Barlow, cricketer, 39; Mr Pierre Boulez, composer and conductor, 64; Lord Chadwell, 52; Miss Kyung-wa Chung, violinist, 41; Lord Fletcher, 86; Lord Graham of Edmonton, 64; Judge Jean Graham Hall, 72; Viscount Hawarden, 63; Lord Hoscar, QC, 64; Mr Marshall Sir Peter Horsley, 68; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 66; Sir George Jefferson, former chairman, British Telecom, 68; Sir Bernard Katz, biophysicist, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGee, 75; Dr Kenneth Mellanby, entomologist, 87; Sir Leslie Melville, Pirelli, racing driver, 37; Mr G.T. Pryce, chief executive, Daihatsu, 35; Mr Harry Robinson, conductor and composer, 62; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 45.

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17

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7200 (-0.0045)
W German mark
3.1992 (-0.0248)
Exchange index
96.5 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1698.4 (+7.9)
FT-SE 100
2057.0 (+8.4)
USM (Datastream)
169.08 (-0.67)
Thursday's closesUS investor
in talks
on Mcorp
purchases

A US entrepreneur looks set to create the largest banking group in Texas, in a deal which involves one of the biggest bank recapitalizations on record.

Mr Robert Aboud is believed to be negotiating with US bank regulators to buy part or all of the 25 subsidiaries of Mcorp, the struggling Texas bank group. The acquisition, added to Mr Aboud's ownership of First City Bancorp, the fourth largest bank in Texas, would give him the state's leading financial services group.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is expected to pump at least \$2 billion (£1.16 billion) into Mcorp, which lost \$903 million last year, to save it from bankruptcy.

US income up

Personal income in the US increased in February to \$4.315 billion (£2.508 billion), a seasonally adjusted 1 per cent rise from the previous month's \$4.273 billion, the US Commerce Department said. The figure included a large increase in subsidy payments to farmers.

Shell contract

Petroneas, Malaysia's national oil company, has signed a contract with the Royal Dutch/Shell Group under which Shell will invest 2 billion ringgit (£425 million) on exploration of the Baram Delta offshore oil field in East Malaysia.

\$173m deal

Breda Construzioni Ferroviarie, the Italian engine manufacturer, has been awarded a \$173 million (£101 million) contract to supply 140 engines for the underground railway system in Washington DC.

330 jobs to go

Trade union officials are to meet management next week to discuss the loss of 330 jobs at two factories in Derbyshire. Meridian Sportswear, part of Courtaulds, says 180 jobs will be lost with the closure of its plant in Derby, and there will be 150 redundancies at Bolton.

Algerian fraud

APS, the Algerian news agency, said auditors had uncovered several major frauds in state enterprises. It said a housing agency in the western town of Oran had misappropriated building materials worth 7.5 million dinars (£588,000), as well as frauds in several banks.

Olive oil buy

Italiana Oli e Risi, part of the Ferruzzi Finanziaria group, has signed a preliminary accord to acquire all of Carapelli, the Italian market leader in high-quality olive oil for 43 billion lire (£18 million).

THE TIMES

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Minorco will pursue bid despite ruling

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Minorco, the mining investment group led by Sir Michael Edwards, has decided to pursue its troubled £3.2 billion offer for Consolidated Gold Fields, despite a US appeal court decision which will make it difficult to meet the April 26 deadline for resolving the bid.

The Luxembourg group intends to defend the US anti-trust and securities law cases brought by ConsGold and its associate Newmont Mining, in the hope of persuading the New York District Court to lift the bar on its acquiring ConsGold shares in time.

It regards any further appeal to higher courts as impractical and has little hope of reaching an agreed bid, which would persuade ConsGold to halt the action.

Mr Keith Irons, a spokesman for Minorco, admitted yesterday that the appeal court decision to uphold the injunction against Minorco may defeat the bid. "It is a very serious setback and could still block us," he said.

There was some good news for Minorco, however. It was told that the US government committee on foreign investment had no objection to the bid on national security grounds under the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act.

ConsGold had contended that if the South African-controlled Minorco acquired its stake in the Australian Renison group, supplies of zirconium and titanium could be threatened.

Minorco has now cleared all official government regulatory barriers to the takeover. It passed US government anti-trust scrutiny last autumn and has

also been cleared by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the European Commission.

Minorco said it now intends "to pursue means of lifting or modifying the injunction entered in the US District Court in New York which currently prohibits Minorco from purchasing shares in ConsGold to take its stake above 30 per cent."

It will seek to go back to the court within seven days and offer undertakings to sell ConsGold's stake in Newmont, its main US gold-mining asset, within a reasonable time, and not exercise management control in the meantime.

It will also contend that there is no question of the merger concentrating 30 per cent of free world gold production under the control of the De Beers/Anglo American group, since it has already undertaken to sell ConsGold stakes in Gold Fields of South Africa and Renison to unconnected third parties.

Minorco intends to keep Gold Fields Mining Corporation, the wholly-owned US gold mining interests, which have important new mining



Sir Michael: bid setback

prospects but at present account for less than 1 per cent of world gold production. On the second ConsGold legal action, allowed because the appeal court ruled that the bid must meet US securities laws on disclosure, Minorco said it was still confused about what extra requirements, if any, might be needed.

"We have to agree what we might have failed to produce what is required under US securities laws and publish another document if necessary," Mr Irons said.

ConsGold will press for much more detail about Minorco's relationship with De Beers/Anglo American and for more information about the ramifications of the South African group.

To meet the bid timetable under City takeover rules, Minorco might need to raise its £14-per-share offer (which has received little support from shareholders) before the court cases are resolved.

But after virulent attacks from Mr Rudolph Agnew, the chairman of ConsGold, it has virtually given up hope of negotiating an agreed bid.

"I do not think that is something we shall be spending much time on," Mr Irons said. "We are poles apart on how we value ConsGold. It would be rather difficult for us to reach agreement with them."

Minorco is also unlikely to seek immediate dispensation from the City Takeover Panel to extend the bid timetable, though it is keeping its options open in case the court actions are resolved late in the day.

ConsGold shares plunged 17p to £12.44 on Thursday after City dealers concluded the US appeal court decision was likely to scupper the bid.

Rank in talks on £300m UK film theme park

From Philip Robinson, Los Angeles

Britain's Rank Organisation and the Hollywood-based Universal Studios have bled talks to create a £300 million Californian-style theme park and film studio in England, within easy reach of the South-east.

Rank this week committed \$200 million (£115 million) to buy a half share and play a major role in plans by MCA, Universal's parent, to reproduce its highly successful Hollywood adventure rides in Florida.

Senior executives at Rank and Universal told *The Times* that talks over the Florida project had taken three months, and future joint deals would include Europe. The timing of the European theme park would link in with completion of the Channel tunnel.

Announcing the Florida deal this week, Mr Michael Clifford, chief executive of Rank, confirmed that a European theme park film studio was a possibility. "We look

forward to possibly collaborating with MCA in its plans for a European motion picture themed studio attraction."

Universal wants to build its third park on 300 acres in Europe, and is currently studying three sites in Britain, France and Northern Italy. The film director Steven Spielberg is playing a leading role in creating the new rides.

Mr Charles "Skip" Paul, vice president of MCA, which also produces television shows such as *Miami Vice*, said: "We are most seriously looking at an English location. We talked to Rank for several months over the Florida projects, and there are certainly other opportunities for co-operation. We might well link up to build a theme park in Britain. After all, Rank own Pinewood and they have an immense film library. Our association with them goes back 50 years."

"The attractions we put into the parks will depend on their location. A decision is likely to be made later this year. If it is Britain, we would want the emphasis to be on British films, and if we decide on Paris, the attractions will be rather more French."

Arch-rival Walt Disney is planning to open a theme park in Paris in 1992, and admits its location was influenced by the amount of concessions offered by the French government. These concessions, according to highly placed film industry sources, will not be available to Universal.

Universal's plans are a direct assault on Walt Disney, master of the thrill and adventure rides that last year provided almost three-quarters of its profits.

Disney has dominated the entertainment parks in Orlando, Florida, for almost 20 years. Universal plans a park eight miles down the road on a 44-acre site with parking for 5,000 cars, employment for 3,000 and a park capable of handling 6 million visitors a year, to be opened next spring.

papers were served virtually as the airliner was waiting to taxi down the runway bound for London.

Now Sun Corporation, a Malaysian-controlled business, and its associated companies, have had a provisional liquidator appointed - leading to public anger from private depositors who only hours before the collapse were still banking their life savings in the corporation's coffers.

The backwash from Australia's financial and economic woes has rubbed off in a negative way on to the stock market and on trading volumes as London and local investors pause for breath.

The investment hiatus has also not been helped by adverse Australian currency movements and the poor Australian dollar gold price.

However, the investment scene is not entirely without merit and the local community insists - cautiously - that there are bargains to be found, especially now that so many shares are but a shadow of their former peak.

"An investment now with a 12- to 18-month period in mind could prove rewarding," analysts at Kleworty Saw James, the broker, tell *The Times*.

Today's investment strategy suggests concentration on gold mining companies which have other precious and base metal interests; on those which have proven reserves and a steady production; and on those companies whose financial integrity is assured because of their forward gold sales programmes.

"Australian dollar weakness will, see-saw like, lift the Australian gold price equivalent, and again concentrate investors attention on mining stocks," according to Mr Peter Marlett, director of corporate advisory services at Kleinwort Saw James, and Mr Malcolm Carson, investment analyst of the same firm.

"However, no real kick in market activity can be ex-



Saying it with flowers: Gerald Smith, chairman of Cramphorn, which makes a 'substantial' proportion of sales at Easter

An air of calm over Cramphorn

By Wolfgang Münchau

The Met Office, not the City, appears best qualified to forecast profits of Cramphorn, the USM-quoted garden centre group based in Essex.

While it is true that many British companies tend to blame bad weather (or high interest rates) for poor performance, Cramphorn is indeed one of the few almost entirely at the mercy of the winds.

Cramphorn this week announced interim pre-tax profits up from £150,000 to £210,000 for the period to December 31, against annual pre-tax figures for the year to July 2 of about £1 million.

About 85 per cent of total

profits came in the second half last year, mostly in the spring period from March until June, and most of those at weekends, particularly bank holiday weekends such as Easter.

Mr Gerald Smith, a former director of County NatWest, who three years ago turned "green" to become chairman of Cramphorn and is a hobby gardener himself, was unable to say how much the Easter weekend amounts to as a proportion of total sales. But he admitted it was "substantial".

The 40 per cent rise in interim profits came despite a fall in sales from £7 million to £6.6 million and was almost

entirely due to the mild winter, because stock losses, which usually occur because of frost, were kept at a minimum.

Cramphorn owns 14 garden centres, mostly in out-of-town locations in the South-east, which are all open during the Easter season.

There are plans to sell two smaller centres this year and to acquire two larger ones, but as Mr Smith admitted, the expansion prospects are limited.

It takes about three years to obtain planning permission for centres, so acquisitions, such as the recent £1.3 million purchase of a centre in

Wokingham, Berkshire, remain the most obvious expansion strategy.

If profits hit £1.5 million - which is unlikely this year, irrespective of the weather - Cramphorn will join the main market, hopefully within three years, Mr Smith said.

The interim dividend this year has been raised from 1.5p to 1.65p. Over the past year the share price has outperformed the market, rising from 300p to 480p, trading at 24 times earnings on a historic basis.

Weather note: the outlook in *The Times* weather forecast for Easter is "very windy with heavy blustery showers."

AMI profit slumps to \$18.6m

By Rodney Hobson

American Medical International, the US hospital group, reported sharply lower profits in the half year to February 28. The figures were announced yesterday, a day after it denied speculation that it would sell its 65 per cent owned British subsidiary AMI Healthcare.

AMI produced net income of \$18.6 million (£10.8 million) in the first half compared with \$63.3 million a year earlier after adjusting for a change in income tax accounting. Earnings per share were 26 cents against 76 cents.

AMI said the figures were distorted by the inclusion of a charge of \$13 million from special malpractice insurance provisions and one of \$11 million in lease buyout costs.

The year-earlier figure benefited from a \$50.7 million post-tax gain from an accounting change partly offset by a \$33.9 million charge from debt repurchase.

Stripping out these items still gave lower net income in the current year, \$42.6 million against \$46.5 million. Revenue was also down, from \$1.51 billion to \$1.32 billion.

AMI Healthcare on Thursday denied speculation that it was about to be sold after consulting its US parent.

Chicago exchange paves way for 24-hour options trading

By Colin Narborough

Widespread concern among futures exchanges, triggered by moves by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade towards round-the-clock trading, has spread to the options business.

This follows the news that the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the biggest in the world, has agreed in principle with Reuters and the Cincinnati Stock Exchange to set up a worldwide 24-hour electronic network for trading options and their underlying securities. Mr John Hull, executive vice president of Reuters America, said: "This venture will speed the process of providing a true 24-hour electronic market in world-class stocks and stock options."

Mr Duke Chapman, the CBOE chairman, hailed the development of the electronic network as "a natural" for all parties concerned, reflecting the way Chicago birthplace of the modern futures and options business, sees the industry adjusting to technological change.

The proposed electronic

network will be accessible on 170,000 Reuters video terminals in more than 100 countries. It will list all the options traded on the CBOE, the shares traded on the CSE and 9,000 over-the-counter shares.

Traders will be able to enter buy or sell orders into the computer system through the Reuters terminal. Orders will then be matched by computer on the basis of time and price.

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Li Ka-shing on the prowl for purchases outside HK

By Colin Narborough

Mr Li Ka-shing, Hong Kong's wealthiest entrepreneur, is on the prowl for investments and acquisitions in Britain, the United States and Canada, as part of a strategy to reduce the share of his business empire in the Crown colony.

In one of his rare interviews with the non-Chinese press, he told *The Times* in London this week that his target was to reduce his Hong Kong assets to about 60 per cent of his total assets. Currently, they account for some 80 per cent.

But Mr Li, credited with breaking the British hold on big business in Hong Kong, has no intention of joining the people and companies moving away because of concern over 1997, when the colony is due to be handed back to China.

Jardine Matheson's Hong Kong Land, the colony's biggest property owner, has decided to relocate to Bermuda on "political-economic" grounds. Rising emigration, especially among middle management, is also starting to cause problems for some companies.

Mr Li, whose giant flagship company, Cheung Kong, encompasses property, finance and shipping, said Hong Kong is a good place for investment and is likely to stay that way.

At current growth rates, he foresees the Hong Kong property market, in which his Hutchison Whampoa group is a leading player, being able to maintain present levels.

While confessing to "some worry" about the world economic picture, Mr Li said the basic economy of Hong Kong was "good". Income was increasing faster than inflation, and standards were improving.

He recognized problems in the labour shortages and



Seeking acquisitions in Britain: Li Ka-shing at the Ritz during his visit this week

emigration, but said companies had their own way of dealing with these, and his group was not badly affected.

For the future, irrespective of political changes, he saw Hong Kong continuing to draw success from having the best natural harbour in the region, a skilled workforce, and excellent trading links.

Asked about the lack of

progress on the political structure after 1997, Mr Li observed that talks were "coming along quite nicely".

"Direct elections may be one of the best answers. But we should not be in a hurry," he said, noting that Peking's negotiators have been "very reasonable".

The billionaire businessman, aged 60, said he was

unaware of any Chinese government pressure to put its people on the boards of Hong Kong companies, although companies may see benefits in Peking directors. Mr Li, a native of China's Guangdong province, says China wants Hong Kong to remain an economic success. But he believes it is important to help China develop.

Bass ready to roll as MMC gets steamed up over the tie

DAVID BREWERTON

On Tuesday, those whose misfortune it was to try to write sensible comment, within a matter of hours, on the "terrible twins" released on the brewing industry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, found the conclusions hard to understand. More than 600 pages later, the mist has still not cleared.

Let me first dispense with the report into Elders DCL's bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries. Nothing I could find in the report distracted me from my first impression: if greater competition is to be established within the brewing industry, then the market leader has to be challenged.

Allowing Courage to merge with Scottish & Newcastle might have made that happen. John Elliott, chairman of Elders, is not a gentle person and would have fought Bass for every point of market share. And it would have happened more in Scotland, where Bass and S&N each claim 40 per cent of the market, than elsewhere.

But the merger is stopped, and there is about as much mileage in examining the reasoning as there is in wondering why the cellar shops are cloudy.

The thicker of the two reports, not only in terms of the number of pages, has yet to be accepted by the Government. Lord Young is "minded to implement" the report into the tie-house system, but the Cabinet ought to dissuade him from it. The proposal to limit the ownership of licensed premises to 2,000 per brewer is such a basic and blatant infringement of property rights that no Conservative government in its right mind should allow it.

Imagine the ramifications if the idea was extended. Perhaps Woolworths should not be allowed more than 2,000 shops. Or Barclays Bank more than 2,000 branches. Banking, after all, is a

vertically integrated business in that Barclays does not sell the Midland's personal loans, nor does it acquire its funds from Lloyds. And in banking there are only four big players, not the "Big Six" of brewing. For a Government committed to deregulation to regulate the basic right of a manufacturer to own his retail outlets is nonsense.

Let us assume, however, that the report is adopted more or less as proposed. The Monopolies Commission will achieve, in the short term, at least one of its objectives, the protection of the regional brewer. By the distortion of market forces, the march of the big brewers will be held back. The regionals will be able to enjoy their local monopolies, serving whatever beer they want in any standard of premises that their customers will accept, protected from competition by licensing laws which prohibit new entrants.

I can see the romantic attractions of preserving regional breweries. Local beers are one of the few aspects of daily life which distinguish South Shields from Southampton, when all the high streets have been taken over by Sainsbury and all the houses are built to a price by Wimpey. That does not mean regional beers, or the pubs that sell them, better. Only local.

The major brewers, which the director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, had in his sights when he called in the MMC, face some difficult decisions. Two of the biggest, Bass and Grand Metropolitan, are likely to emerge stronger than ever.

According to Tim Clarke, brewing analyst at Pannam Gordon, the power of Bass's brands and its strength of distribution in the free trade will ensure its continued place as market leader, while Grand Metropolitan, with the best brewery in the London area, Mortlake, and a well-crafted retail position can pick its own options.

Bass could spin off its brewing operations which, even without the 2,000 pubs it would be allowed to own, could be worth a billion. GrandMet lacks a larger brand, but as chairman Allen Sheppard commented this week, potential buyers are queuing up for the brewing capacity. GrandMet could then strengthen its grip on the pub market.

Waiting nervously must be Allied-Lyons. Bugged by Alan Bond's stake and lacking strength in beer brands, it is slap in the front line for Bass's steamroller. By the time Bass Brewing plc has finished with the market even Bond might be able to afford to buy Allied's breweries.

Greater competition? At the same time, the dismantling of the big players in the vertical integration game will introduce the wholesaler to a far greater percentage of beer distribution. He will act for a variety of brewers and will want his percentage, so where there are generally only two profit cuts now, at the brewery and in the pub, there will be three.

Will that produce lower prices? The report, unlike the report into Elders/S&N, was not unanimous. Leif Mills appends a well-argued note of dissent, which I hope Lord Young has read as closely as the main report.

The final irony, perhaps, is that Paul Channon, was sitting at the Trade Secretary's desk when the MMC was called in, and Lord Young may have the last word from his bunker in Brussels.

Knight of the long knives

Sir John Hoskyns has never been afraid of the limelight and, if I may take a leaf out of the politicians' book and thoroughly mix my metaphors, indeed a shrinking violet would have been hopeless at the helm of the Institute of Directors. Sir John knows that if he is to be heard he has to catch the headlines, and that there are few better ways of catching the headlines than to provoke a public row.

Sir John put in his thumb, and pulled out Lord Plumb, cutting up his IoD membership card in front of Press cameras. His headlines, twice in two weeks, were guaranteed.

The problem with this approach is that while it pushes the medium into the centre stage, the message is to danger of disappearing into the wings. In all the words written over the past couple of weeks, few sentences addressed the problems to which Sir John was attempting to draw attention.

Let me quote from this week's speech (which, incidentally, he re-iterated in a

telephone call to *The Times* from France on his way to a holiday. Contrary to certain crude attempts at disinformation, he is not retracting one word).

"We believe that, on present indications, 1992 is going to fail, for three reasons. First, insufficient progress is being made on the really difficult measures needed to remove internal frontiers".

Can Lord Plumb really disagree with that assessment? While every member state is happy to play lip service to the 1992 ideal, there are so many cultural gaps to be leaped and ingrained attitudes to be challenged that they will take a generation to overcome.

"Second, a great deal of political energy and administrative time is being wasted in drafting vague proposals about European monetary union and trans-European social policies which, even if they are workable and desirable, are not prerequisites for the single market".

Sir John could have added that in

this country we speak with many voices on the matters of monetary union and a European central bank. The National Westminster Bank, for instance, forecast this week that by 1992 we would be in the EMS. The Government is no-committal, if not uncommitted.

"Third, we believe that the machinery of the commission and its institutions is organizationally and managerially inadequate for the task facing them".

It is. Sir John is not unaccustomed to rattling the cage in which some believe leadership of the IoD should imprison him. He was once close to Downing Street and is still on more than odding terms with senior members of the Cabinet. While he is not in any sense a ventriloquist's dummy on the matron's knee, his message is one that the Government is happy to be spread.

Especially if he, rather than Lord Young, takes the flak generated by the more ear-catching anecdotes.

US eases Soviet trade curbs

Washington — The Commerce Department, responding to pressure from exporters, is to reduce controls and simplify licensing procedures for computers and medical equipment bound for the Soviet Union.

The changes relax procedures covering shipment of products such as advanced personal computers, although not the most powerful ones, and computer-driven blood analysers.

The moves follow complaints from business that the US is hurting itself economically with restrictions on East-West trade that are generally tougher than those of its allies.

Last year's Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act mandated some of the changes, including the exemption of medical equipment from the controls, provided they met certain criteria.

In response to the more relaxed East-West political atmosphere, there have been efforts to streamline control lists, led by the Co-ordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (Coccom).

"This revision simplifies the export control rules and reflects advances in product design and business practices in the computer and medical equipment areas," said Mr Michael Zacharia, assistant secretary of commerce for export administration.

The moves are in line with Coccom efforts to focus restraints on higher-technology products and ease them at the lower end of the spectrum.

"We're delighted to see them continuing to come out with improvements," said Miss Lisa Kjaer of the Electronic Industries Association, New York Times.

Mid Kent Water offer

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mid Kent Water, the £80 million statutory water group, is to give its consumers and employees the chance to take up a £7 million cut-price offer as part of a pioneering scheme to convert itself into a conventional public limited company.

The shares will be offered at 325p each, not much more than half their possible value, based on the market prices of existing stocks.

It is part of a scheme, devised by Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, that could raise up to £20 million to help Mid Kent develop into related businesses, such as plumbing, and finance its plan to remain independent.

The proposals had to be shelved this month after

Générale des Eaux, the French water company, raised its holding of Mid Kent redeemable preference shares to control 29.9 per cent of the company's votes, and Saur, a rival French group, built its holding to 16 per cent.

The two French companies, with others representing more than 80 per cent of the votes in Mid Kent, have agreed the scheme, although it could reduce any long-term prospect of them gaining control.

"You could say the French have decided to give management a chance," Mr David Anslow of Brown Shipley suggested.

Under the scheme, a new Plc called Mid Kent Holdings will offer to convert all five classes of Mid Kent ordinary

and perpetual preference shares, which have recently traded at about £7 each, into ordinary shares in the new company. The offer will be on a one-for-one basis with minor variations.

The 8.75 preference stock, redeemable in 1997, which is mainly in the hands of the French, will be converted into a similar redeemable stock.

Those accepting the conversion offer will also receive one-for-10 warrants to buy new stock, and be entitled to apply for a one-for-five rights issue for 3.9 million new shares at 325p each.

The offer of 2.2 million shares to consumers and employees will come on top of this, but will not be underwritten.

Sea Containers takes Stena Line to court

By Our City Staff

Mr James Sherwood's Sea Containers, which only last week was making encouraging noises about the 8.17 per cent of its shares acquired by the Stena Line, has taken legal action against the Swedish-owned stakeholder.

In a federal law suit filed in the United States, Sea Containers, which owns Sealink, the Channel ferry operator, is taking Stena to court over alleged technical issues concerned with a submission to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

In contrast to Sea Containers' generally welcoming noises after the surprise Stena stake was disclosed, Mr Sherwood's Bermuda-based group

now takes the view that Stena's actions threaten the option of a bid for the whole company.

Stena has said it regards the Sea Containers shares as a good investment, but has also listed proposals for business combinations with Sea Containers, or acquisition of part, or all, of the group.

A Sea Containers spokesman said the law suit was intended to bring the Swedes to account under US market procedures.

He did not expect the suit to ruin Sea Containers' long-standing good relations with Stena. Mr Sherwood still plans discussions with the Swedish company "fairly soon."

Foreign car prices to be cut in Japan

Tokyo (Reuters) — Retail prices for most foreign cars sold in Japan will be reduced on April 1, when a 6 per cent consumption tax on cars replaces higher commodity taxes.

Austin Rover Japan, the Japanese sales side of Rover Group, said its price cuts, excluding the 6 per cent consumption tax, will range from 230,000 yen (about £1,000) on the Rover Sterling to ¥80,000 on the Mini Sprite.

Yanase and Co, a dealer in foreign cars, said retail prices will be cut by an average of 4.8 per cent for Volkswagen cars, 6.3 per cent for Audis and 5.7 per cent for General Motors.

BMW Japan Corp said its retail prices, including the consumption tax, will be cut by 3.8 to 9.23 per cent.

Rags-to-riches tale of Drexel assistant tainted by perjury

Boesky's ghost haunts the Street

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Like the unwitting guest at the wedding, the ghost of Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arranger, continues to haunt Wall Street — this week Lisa Ann Jones, a trader's assistant for Drexel Burnham Lambert, was found guilty of perjury and obstruction of justice by a US court.

Boesky is as unforgettable, on his first anniversary in prison on insider trading charges, as he was in the "power seat" oiling the wheels which moved financial markets.

Jones, aged 26, is one of the small fish caught in Boesky's net. But her rags-to-riches tale is providing riveting copy for the New York tabloid press.

Her trial, at which she was found guilty on five counts of perjury and two of obstruction of justice though she is believed to be considering an appeal, was the first arising from the investigation of the investment house of Drexel Burnham Lambert, as a result of Boesky's plea-bargaining disclosures to the government.

Federal prosecutors stumbled across Jones on the trail which would lead them to Mr Michael Milken, "the junk bond king" of Wall Street and then Drexel's star performer.

Ironically, Jones, who earned almost \$120,000 (£69,700) a year as a member of the Drexel high-yield bond team, could spend more time in jail than either

Boesky or Dennis Levine, another convicted insider trader, or any of the others implicated in the investigation.

Meanwhile, lawyers were in another Manhattan courtroom filing suit against Boesky. On behalf of a group of investors, the suit claimed Boesky had lied about his net worth after paying \$100 million in fines to settle the government's case against him.

Far from being broke, as he claimed, Boesky had more than \$25 million left after paying the unprecedented fine, more than enough to keep him in style after his release from prison in two years' time, the lawyers said.

The suit on behalf of disgruntled investors also named as defendants Mr Milken and Mr Lowell Milken, his brother, who are targets of another government case.

Mr Michael Milken was said to be the reason that Drexel has been unable to settle its own case by agreeing to the terms set by US government officials. Government prosecutors were said to be demanding that Drexel sever all ties with Mr Milken and that the firm was refusing on grounds that it would lose more valuable employees and customers who were loyal to him.

Meanwhile, Jones was being prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, without benefit of the plea-bargaining arrangements that even Drexel had

pursued by pleading guilty to six felonies and agreeing to pay fines amounting to \$650 million.

When the government first approached her about making a "deal", she remained loyal to the firm. She was accused of engaging in stock "parking deals" while working as an assistant on the Beverly Hills "junk bond operation". According to the court testimony, Jones denied knowing about "parks" or about the existence of such trades.

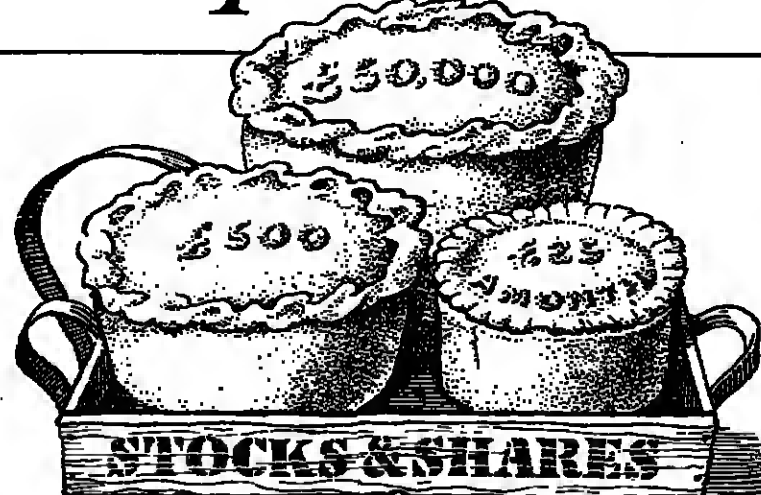
It was easy to see why she was so loyal — according to the *Wall Street Journal*, Drexel took her from obscurity and a childhood spent on the wrong side of the tracks, and continued paying her expenses and legal fees even after her indictment on perjury charges.

Small wonder that she turned down the initial approach of the US attorney's office to deliver evidence which they hoped would lead them to Mr Milken.

But unknown to Jones, the government had seized tape recordings containing conversations between Drexel and officials of a small New Jersey firm known as Princeton-Newport which was later convicted of federal securities violations.

Her voice discussing trades was on one of the tapes and she was indicted on five counts of perjury and three counts of obstruction of justice. She is to be sentenced in May.

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FAMILY MONEY

S&P is forced to reheat its bed and breakfasts

Maria Scott with a timely warning for investors hoping to take advantage of end of the tax year overnight transactions

Save & Prosper, the unit trust group, has had to hastily rework a special offer it was making to investors for bed and breakfast transactions, because it appeared to infringe Inland Revenue rules on this type of deal.

Bed and breakfasting is the term used to describe share or unit trust transactions set up specifically to produce a gain or loss which can be used either to take advantage of an unused capital gains tax allowance — £5,000 in 1988/89 and 1989/90 — or to reduce a capital gains tax liability.

At the same time, a new base line is created for assessing future gains. The Inland Revenue requires that such transactions are real transactions, not artificial ones effected only in theory. The sale and repurchase must be made on different days.

"An inspector would want to know that this was an ordinary transaction, at normal open market prices and that the shares were genuinely relinquished and were exposed to market movements overnight," said a spokesman for the Revenue.

"There should not be any actual or implied agreement for the client to buy the shares back," he added.

Save & Prosper had announced that under its special terms for bed & breakfast deals, investors could repurchase their units the morning after selling them, at the previous day's offer price.

"Save & Prosper believes that this arrangement creates a simple and cost-effective way for investors to realize capital gains or losses without incurring any investment risk on the transaction," said the



company in its announcement.

Mr Ken Emery, the marketing and development manager at Save & Prosper, said this week that after sending out the information, the company reconsidered the offer to provide a service which eliminated risk.

Save & Prosper then realized that this was something that the Inland Revenue might take issue with and decided to change the terms so that investors would be buying back their units at the prevailing day's offer price.

In many cases, said Mr Emery, there would be no change from the previous day's price but the Inland Revenue would want to see that there had been a real risk.

About 20 deals had been done under the terms originally set out by Save & Prosper, and the company would be writing to these investors offering them the chance to re-run their deals

with no transaction charges. Save & Prosper's slip-up is a timely reminder to anyone contemplating a bed and breakfast deal before the end of the tax year on April 5, that this is a concession not to be taken lightly and that in order to crystallize a gain, you must expose yourself to some risk.

Indeed the Stock Exchange has recently written to member firms reminding them that all bed and breakfast deals ought to be genuine transactions.

A spokesman for the Exchange explained: "There should be no sleight of hand involved."

Neither the Stock Exchange spokesman nor the Inland Revenue spokesman believed that discounts on bed and breakfast deals — which are commonplace among stockbrokers and some unit trust companies — were necessarily risky.

What mattered was the nature of the deal and whether

there had been a genuine sale and repurchase.

Mr George Bull, a director of the tax consultancy department at Neville Russell, the accountant, reinforced the warning from the Inland Revenue.

"You must make a real transaction. So inevitably, there is a risk involved. If there is a move between the sale price and the purchase price, inevitably you are exposed to that."

"From time to time the Inland Revenue will pick a situation where someone has done a bed and breakfast deal and it will look into it to check the circumstances."

Mr John Hodgson, the senior manager in the tax department at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, added:

"As long as it is a real transaction it will be difficult for the Inland Revenue to argue with it."

"At some point or another the client should lose ownership of the shares. Simply selling to a nominee who intends to hold the shares overnight, is not sufficient."

One stockbroker said he believed there were a number of potentially risky areas in setting up bed and breakfast deals. "For example, there might be circumstances where a market-maker might not take on a tranche of shares unless he was told that they were being repurchased the next morning."

This might be the case where there was a large block of shares in a lightly traded stock.

There must be some doubt about whether the Inland Revenue would accept such an arrangement, said this broker.

Mr Bull said: "Anything which detracts from the notion of full overnight risk is undesirable."

"The ultra cautious view is that you should probably use a different broker to buy and sell, especially if you are dealing in a regularly traded stock."

Clowes payout 'in the summer'

Investors in the UK arm of Barlow Clowes can look forward to further refunds in the summer, says Mr Michael Jordon, joint liquidator for Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, the UK business, and the Gibraltar-based Barlow Clowes International.

A four-day hearing is set to start on May 2 in the High Court in London to examine claims over funds held by the two arms of Mr Peter Clowes' collapsed empire. Each of the two branches has claims against funds held by the other, and the extent of the claims will affect the amount of money available.

Mr Jordon said the court would also be looking at the rights of investors within the various funds operated by BCGM, and whether some investors should receive more money than others.

Provided these issues were resolved he expected a payment to be made towards the end of May. However, it was not yet possible to say how much investors would receive.

Mr Anthony Gold of Alexander Tatham, solicitors acting for Clowes investors, said he was also confident of second payments to BCGM investors. A thousand investors, whose money was channelled through Lloyds Bank, got three-quarters of their money back before Christmas. Between 5,000 and 6,000 investors, whose money went through Midland Bank, received a quarter of their money at the end of January.

These were interim payments.

Slightly more than 1,000 of the 11,000 BCI investors put money into the operation in its last months and they may have a right to a full refund. The Court will be asked to decide on this on May 22.

Miss Elizabeth Gloster, representing BCI and its receivers, told the High Court in London this week that BCI investors could look forward to some sort of limited interim payout in the summer.

MS

A loan in the Strand

By Vivien Goldsmith

The pub with no beer may be a myth, but the bank with no cash has really arrived.

Barclays has opened a Financial Services Centre in the Strand, London, where customers can deal in shares, buy unit trusts, negotiate a loan, obtain advice about insurance or tax — but cannot cash a cheque.

"We have kept cash away from this particular outlet," says manager Mr Adrian Bunting, who also manages an adjacent branch, where cash can be found. On differ-

ent days callers will find taxation and investment experts on hand from 8.30am to 6pm.

And the new thinking about banking does not end with the services offered. The design of the branch itself breaks away from conventional marble-bank gravitas with a vengeance.

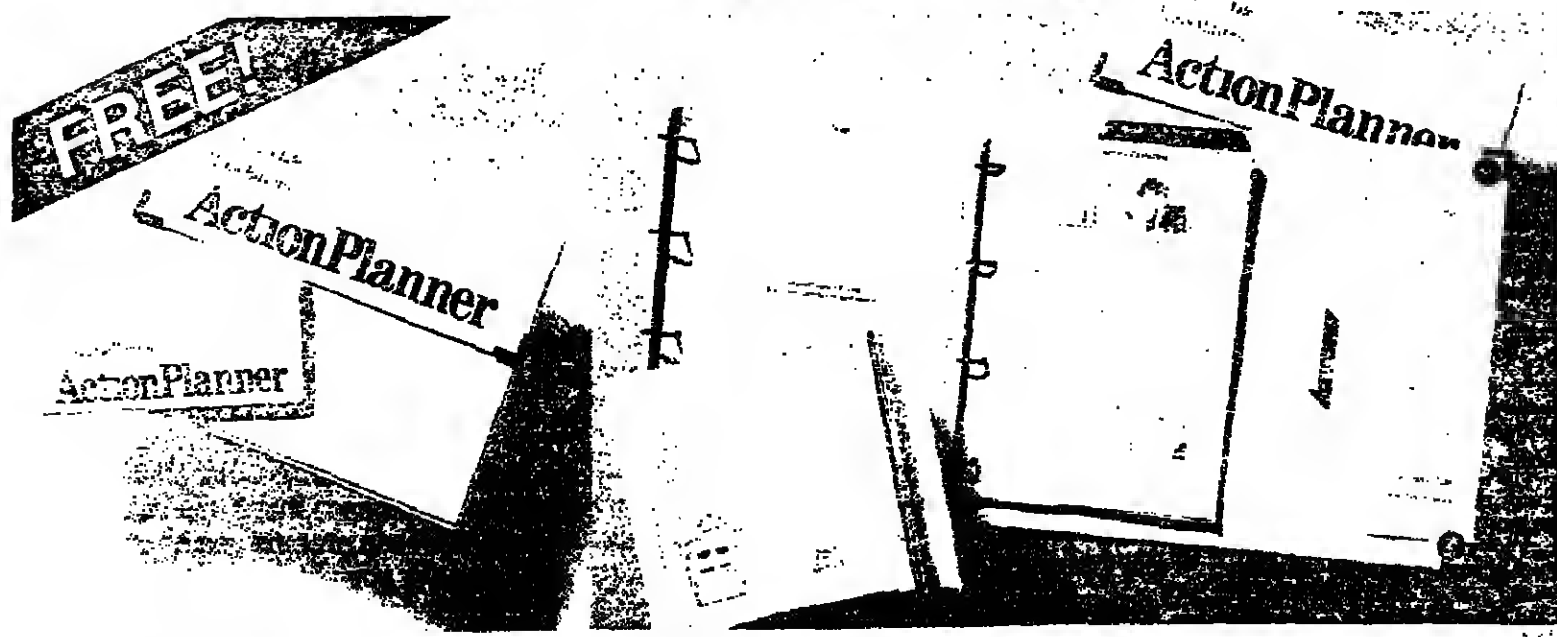
On the threshold there is some fool's gold set into the green slate, flooring and inside a brutal broken glass panel engraved with pound signs shatters the wood and chrome calm.



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FIMBRA

FAMILY MONEY

Hugh Thompson tells a cautionary tale of a search that failed to reveal a proposed dual carriageway

In the house of the rising fear

Last summer Sarah Jones and her friend Jill Logan were in a hurry. Unfortunately, their speed may have cost them a considerable amount. They wanted to buy a London flat before the August 1 deadline on more than one person receiving tax relief on a single property's mortgage payments.

"With the tax relief for both of us, we worked out it was as cheap to buy in the suburbs as to rent in Fulham, where we were," Miss Jones says. "We looked at a place in Fulham, but didn't go for it as we heard that there was going to be a new road going through nearby."

The flat they did buy, for £90,000, was in Putney, across the Thames. "We saw it at the beginning of June, put in an offer and it was accepted immediately," Miss Jones continues.

"One of the things that impressed us was that Richard Barclay was the sole agent. They were very efficient, and we couldn't believe how fast everything went. We exchanged contracts on June 24 and completed on July 31, chuffed that we had beaten the August 1 deadline."

However, other events were moving in a way which was



In every dream home a heartache: unhappy Sarah Jones outside her flat in Putney, London going to clond that joy. In May a national newspaper reported that the Department of Transport was about to release a number of proposals for improving the South Circular road. These included a dual carriageway through the heart of Putney, and were duly published on June 29.

This was also the time that Miss Jones's solicitor was doing his search at Wandsworth Town Hall. No sign of these proposals came through on the search. For, as Wandsworth Town Hall states: "These are not firm proposals, but a series of assessment studies. The 30-odd published have yet to be whittled down to the half-dozen which will go forward to the next stage. We are in a

including a note about these proposals and how they affect Putney."

Which is a bit late for Miss Jones. "The plans show the new motorway being at the end of our road," she says. "I don't think we are going to sell it at any price."

But surely the estate agent, whose job it is to have his car to the ground, must have known? And does he now tell prospective buyers about the proposals?

Mr Ricky Hutchinson, associate partner of Richard Barclay in Putney, says: "We didn't know at the time, and even now no one is really clear about what these proposals mean. They are always talking about motorway proposals in London and nothing ever happens. But of course we discuss it with buyers, and we give them our view that the road just won't happen."

"It's true that as an agent you do get a bit biased about these kinds of plans: you have seen them all before. We are still selling houses all along the proposed route. I think that Miss Jones could sell her flat at a profit today."

"However, it must be said that we act for the seller, and it's not our business to jeopardize a sale."

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For further information and a copy of the Report and Accounts, please return to: The Secretary, The Alliance Trust PLC, Meadow House, 64 Reform Street, Dundee DD1 1TJ

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Danger on the Spanish shore

Diana Wildman on a move which may result in Britons' holiday homes being eventually demolished — by law

Conflict has arisen over the interpretation of Spain's latest *Ley de Costas* — Law of Coastal Areas — which came into effect in July 1988.

According to Mr Edward MacMillan-Scott, the Conservative Member of the European Parliament for York, literal interpretation of the law means that wholesale demolition of properties situated within a 100 metre (110 yard) zone back from the shoreline could occur in 30 years — the limit the Government has set — and indeed some properties, particularly along the Costa Blanca and on Tenerife, have already been earmarked.

The Spanish government has been quick to deny this and indeed, in an official statement, confirmed that any building which had obtained proper planning permission, and which is properly registered with the local notary, is absolutely safe.

The problem is with the illegally constructed edifices which litter much of the Spanish shoreline and in which many homeowners — Spanish, British, and other nationalities — do not hold an *escritura* (title deed). Here the *Ley de Costas* 1988 can be implemented, but this will take time before any wholesale demolition can take place.

In the meantime, some homeowners are obviously concerned by the effect this will have on the prices of their properties — particularly those apartment blocks which have already been earmarked for possible demolition. Still, this cannot happen for 30 years — during which time new laws can be brought in and governments change.

Señor Julio Prado, a lawyer

and member of the Madrid Bar Association, says: "Since the 1960s tourism and holiday home ownership have probably been two of Spain's largest sources of income, and have been the solution to the country's balance of payments."

Last year, 54 million visitors spent £9.4 billion in Spain and it is obvious that the Spanish government would not take any action so detrimental to the Spanish economy. The government states quite definitely that all buildings will be left alone as long as they have the necessary building permission."

The affair highlights the real need for all purchasers to seek independent legal advice before a commitment to buy is made.

Many agents play down this necessity, in case it spoils a sale, but professional advice is absolutely essential in checking that all planning permissions have been granted, that the developer actually owns the land concerned, and that when the property is paid for it is completely mortgage-free.

Mr Charles Hutchinson of Hamptons, the estate agent, says his company insists that all its potential buyers consult a solicitor. He also says that the new law forbidding any construction at all within 100 metres zone is now in operation, although the Spanish government has given a special dispensation for marina schemes.

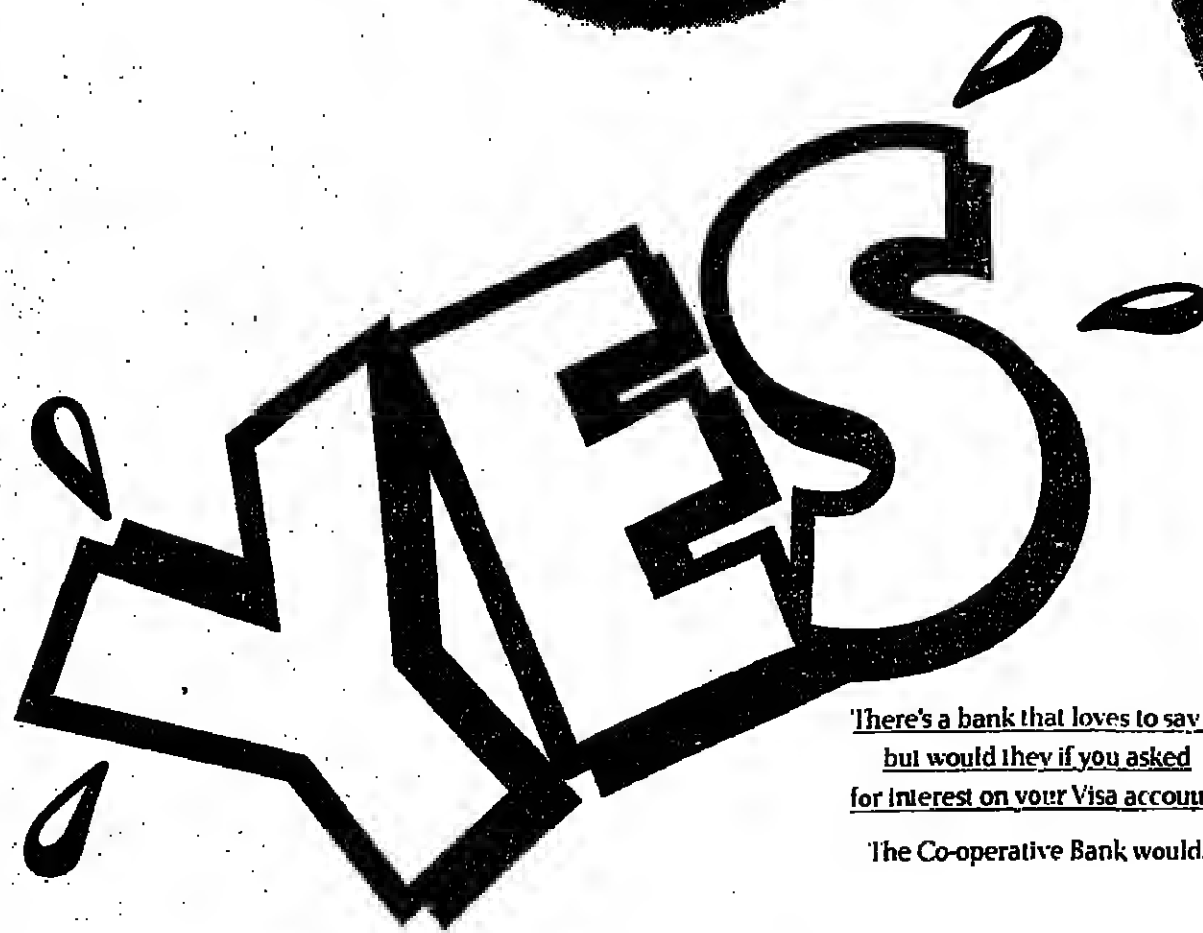
In this case, Mr Hutchinson says, the Spanish government retains ownership and grants a lease — usually for 30 years — so enabling an owner to obtain his *escritura*.

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11/11/19

FAMILY MONEY

Celebrate a happy new tax year this April 6

Tony Foreman
offers some
pointed advice
on tax-saving

This may be your last chance to save tax before the start of the new tax year on April 6. Work through this checklist to see what action you should take.

Nominating your main residence:

If you have two homes you must nominate one as your main residence for CGT purposes within two tax years. If you do not, you lose the right to choose and the Inland Revenue may decide for you. Wife's earnings election:

If your combined income for 1987-88 amounted to £26,870 it may be beneficial to elect for the wife's earnings to be taxed separately. A formal election needs to be made by April 5 1989.

Bes investments: You can make a deduction against your 1988-89 income if the shares are issued by April 5, subject to £5,000 that you may be able to carry back from 1989-90.

Unused pension relief: If you were self-employed or had non-pensionable earnings for 1987-88, you may be able to make a pension contribution and carry it back. The contribution will normally have to be made by April 5. Contracting out of SERPS: The Government is encouraging people to opt out of the



State Earnings Related Pension scheme by adding a bonus of 2 per cent to their contributions. There is also a one-off chance to opt out by April 5, and backdate the decision to 1987-88. Your contributions for 1987-88 and 1988-89 will form the basis of your first plan.

Personal equity plans: Pep managers can start to switch to the new rules from April 6, so to take full advantage of the Budget changes, make sure you take out a Pep under the old rules for a maximum of £3,000 before the managers convert to the new rules.

Then invest a further £4,800 for 1989-90 under the new rules - you may want to go to another manager if yours is

tardy in switching over to the new system.

Court orders: Where a maintenance agreement or Court Order was in force before March 15 1989, remember that tax relief under the old rules will still be available, but the amount will be restricted to the payments actually paid during the tax year ending April 5. It may be crucial that all the amounts due for payment in 1988-89 are actually paid.

Unquoted investments: There is a special type of income tax relief for capital losses on the unquoted shares of UK trading companies. You must have subscribed for new shares or received them as a gift from your spouse who subscribed. Provided that you

satisfy all these requirements, a capital loss may be set against your income for the year in which you realize the loss, or the next year. Other capital losses can only be set against capital gains.

If you have an unquoted investment which has gone badly, consider selling it before the end of the year to establish the loss. Do not sell to a connected person such as a relative.

Charitable covenants: Make sure that payments due from you are made before April 6, as you are entitled to higher rate relief for 1988-89 only if the payments are made in this tax year. Tony Foreman is a taxation partner at Pannell Kerr Forster, Chartered Accountants

Seager on both sides in trust war



Seager: split-level specialist

Unit and investment trusts are engaged in a marketing war, so it is perhaps a little surprising to find a seasoned unit trust adviser starting an investment trust advice service.

But Mr Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities of Bristol says he sees no need for a conflict between the two. "It's a case of horses for courses," he says.

Often the participants in the investment versus unit trust debate quote performance figures which average out returns over the whole

range of trusts in their fields. According to Mr Seager, this can be misleading, as the investment trust sector is weighted towards British shares while unit trusts have a broader international spread. However, there are good and bad opportunities within each camp.

Mr Seager says the decision to offer advice on investment trusts is a natural progression for Whitechurch, but his interest has also been aroused by the development of split-level trusts, and he says he will specialize in these.

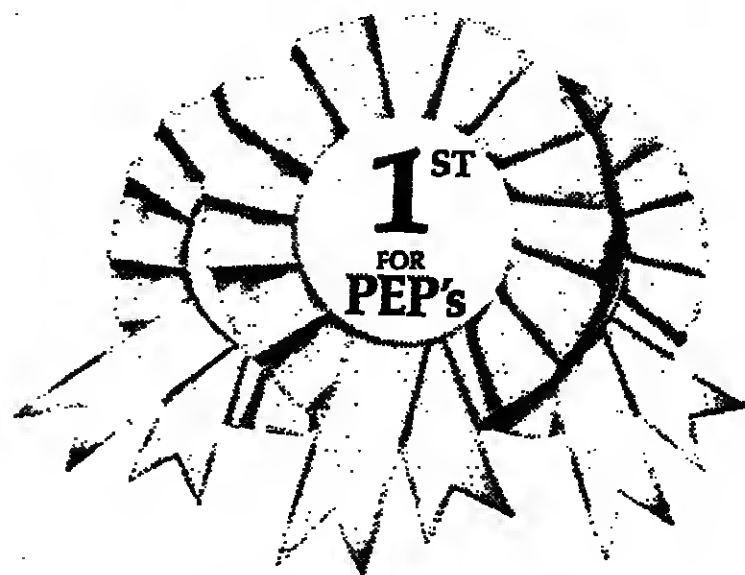
Whitechurch is charging a one-off 6 per cent on investment trust portfolios and a 1.5 per cent annual fee in addition to dealing costs at 0.3 per cent.

Mr Seager admits the charges are high, but argues that he will construct an investment trust portfolio from as little as £5,000, an amount which would tempt few stockbrokers. And any commissions paid by investment trusts to Whitechurch will be rebated to the client.

Maria Scott

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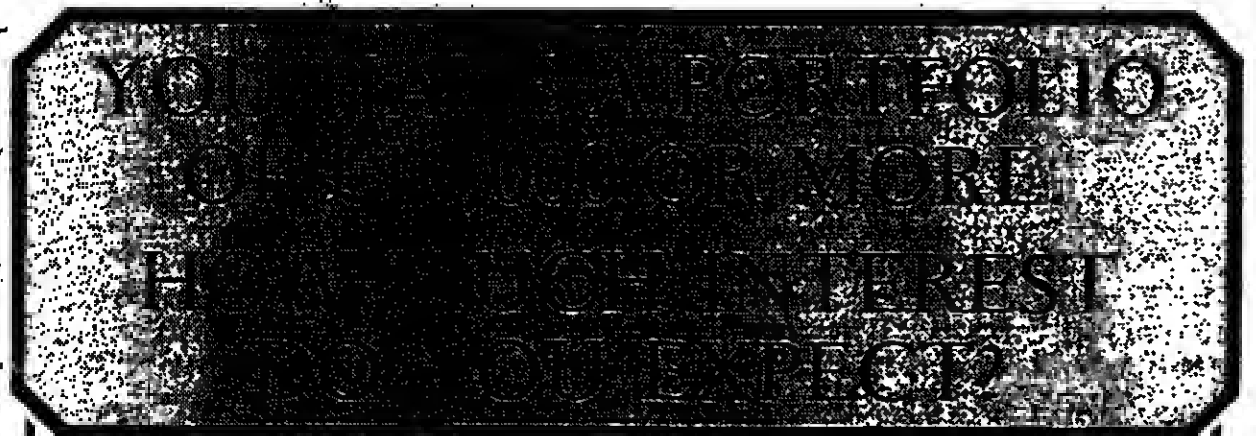
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Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1975	1,076	1,087	1,080
1976	2,640	1,112	1,466
1977	10,286	1,729	2,154
1978	27,080	4,947	3,240
22 MAR '89	67,880	8,219	4,122*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are at redemption values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 22nd March 1984 would have grown to £3,340 by 22nd March 1989 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION On 22nd March 1989 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield	Spread
Recovery	654-8p	897-3p	3.95%	5-44%
Dividend	636-1p	2319-3p	4.95%	5-44%
SECOND	1103-5p	2319-3p	3.32%	6-54%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 a.m. each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and - until October - 1% for Dividend is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb, 15 Jan, 15 Feb, 20 Aug	15 Jan, 15 Feb, 20 Aug	15 Jan, 15 Feb, 20 Aug

Applications required by 15 Jan '89, 20 May '89, 2 Jan '89 for next distribution. 20 Aug '89, 15 July '89, 15 Aug '89

Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can claim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue. Capital gains tax 1988-89. An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1985 are not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1985 are subject to taxation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for sale will be dealt for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The Trustees for Dividend and Recovery are Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for Second General are Lloyds Bank Plc. The funds are all wider range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

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If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1984, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '84	-	-	£1,000	£1,000
1985	£40	£38	1,020	1,000
1976	46	49	1,076	1,000
1977	83	72	1,159	1,000
1978	166	103	2,428	1,000
1979	228	87	6,816	1,000
22 MAR '89	-	-	12,030	1,000

NOTES All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend Fund figures are at redemption values. £1,000 invested in M&G Dividend Fund income units on 22nd March 1984 would have produced an income of £71 in 1988 and the capital would have grown to £2,321 by 22nd March 1989.

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M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Second General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,982	2,008	1,167
1965	3,132	2,623	1,397
1970	4,648	3,054	1,742
1975	7,984	3,962	2,366
1980	19,540	6,160	3,476
1985	54,600	17,624	6,229
22 MAR '89	107,128	29,262	6,552*

NOTES All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General figures are at redemption values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Second General on 22nd March 1984 would have grown to £2,586 by 22nd March 1989 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Further information will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB. Tel: (0245) 256266.

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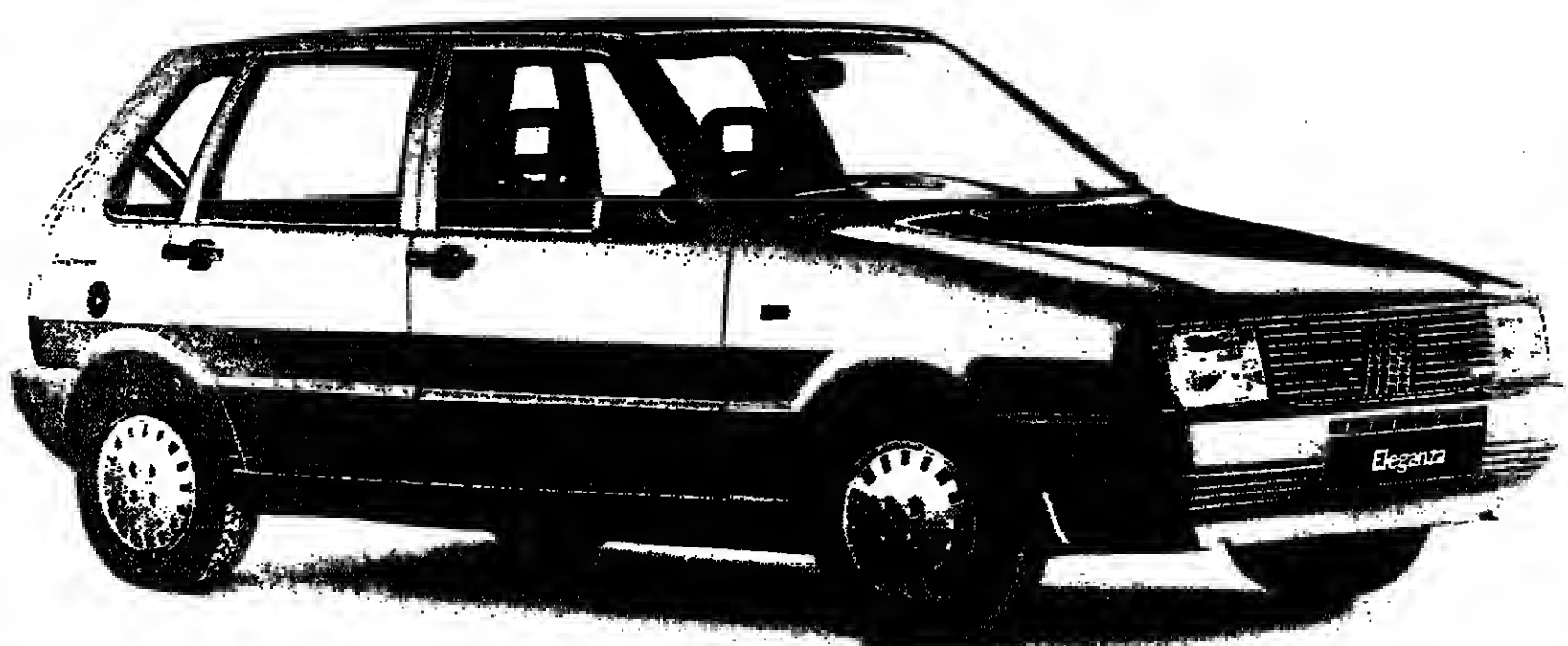
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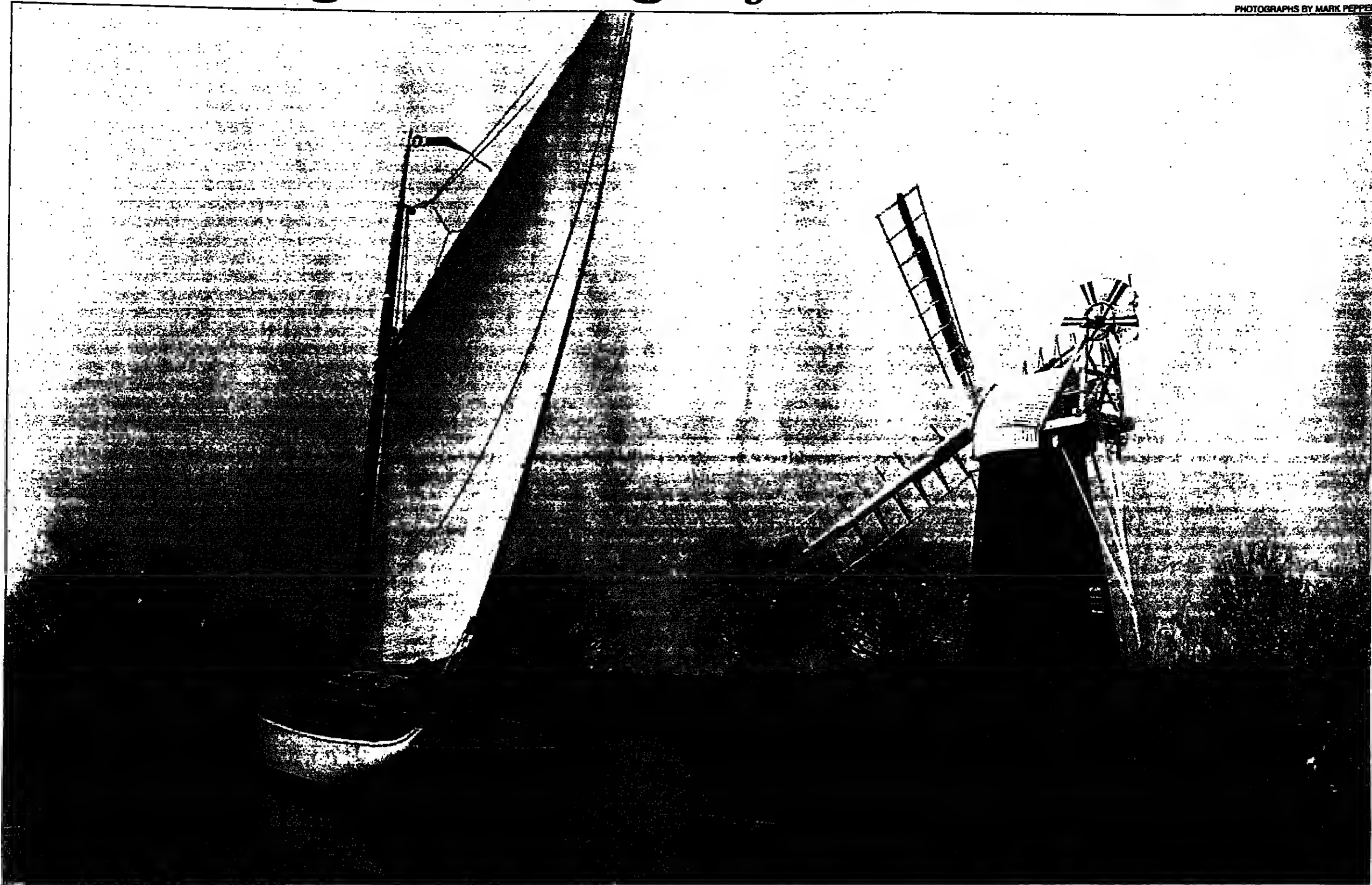
THE TIMES REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY MARCH 25 1989

The greening of the Broads

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK PEPPER



Plain sailing: the wherry *Olive* skimming along the River Ant, near Ludham. The old Norfolk wherries were the main form of cargo transport in Broadland for two centuries and they epitomize the clear water and tan sails of the old Arthur Ransome idyll

A warm wind from the south-west cracks life into the sail of the Norfolk wherry *Olive*, rattling the wooden blocks on deck and sending the heavy boat skimming down the River Bure. At the end of a quiet, rocky reach, the curly half-timbering and Wendy-house that of Wroxham comes into view, and I notice with lofty disdain that one of the trim suburban lawns even has a lifelike plastic heron instead of a genuine one.

But, disturbed by the shadow of the *Olive's* sail, the heron shakes its leg and turns a crestful head to glare back at me. Peter Bower, the skipper, roars with laughter at my surprise. "I'd say it's the plastic herons that are the rare species here. The real ones are all tame." The moment lay at the heart of any experience of the Norfolk Broads: a blend of ancient and modern, natural and contrived, odd reality and damning preconceptions.

About 12 years ago, word began to get about that the Norfolk Broads had been finally ruined: polluted, overcrowded, overdeveloped and vulgarized. The photo-blasters blared, tin cans littered the reed-beds, and the marsh harriers and otters had fled. Sewage and chemicals had been flowing unchecked into the quiet lakes formed by medieval peat-diggings, and through the 125 meandering miles of the rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney.

Farmers had assiduously drained the ancient grazing-marshes to produce agricultural land, and the native wildfowl and waterborne life of this fragile region had gradually been degraded in a classic pattern of ecological impoverishment.

Soon there would be only a few fat and commonplace ducks left to scrounge crusts from the crowds of trippers. The boat-hire companies continued an increasingly frantic overselling of the Broads. In the words of one, now remorseful, hater: "In the Seventies we advertised it as a sort of cut-price Costa or a waterborne pub-crawl. I think we even tried to persuade them there was nightlife in Horning." Irredeemably hideous motorboats swished far too fast along the quiet rivers, their wash crumpling the fragile banks, the water, once clear and sparkling and fringed with water-plants, became uniformly dark, thick and soupy. Algae thriving on phosphorus from sewage and nitrate from agriculture choked every thing else.

This was the image of the degraded Broads and much of it was accurate. Older people, remembering the clear water and tan sails of the old Arthur Ransome idyll, were saddened; younger ones shrugged and looked elsewhere for wildernesses. Few

We can all learn from the battle against pollution in the Norfolk Broads, says Libby Purves

people believed in the reversibility of such a 20th-century disaster. Yet two things were happening: first, a persistent and influential lobby for the improvement of the Broads; and second, a slump in the hire-boat trade — a 20 per cent drop in bookings. "There was a year when the boats all seemed to sit in the yards all summer," says Peter Bower, of Wroxham. "I reckon the trade began to see that people were just going off the place."

This, together with the increasing outrage of naturalists as rare birds and plants lost ground, created a climate of opinion in which radical change was possible. It has taken 10 years, but on April 1, after much sound and fury, an Act of Parliament comes into force ceding the management and navigation responsibility for the

I'd say it's the plastic herons that are the rare species here. The real ones are all tame



Peter Bower at the helm: "People were simply going off the place"

whole area to the Broads Authority: a committee representing district and county councils, naturalists, port and water authorities. It effectively turns the Norfolk Broads into a National Park.

Only its legal and navigational powers are a novelty. The Broads Authority has existed for 10 years, on a largely goodwill basis, after energetic lobbying from the Countryside Commission. In 1978 its incoming chief executive found only "a desk and a telephone". He has held the fragile, awkward position of catalyst and co-ordinator for a decade and now the same man has been re-appointed to head the new, all-powerful authority.

He is Aitken Clark, a quiet 52-year-old Scot who is, in his way, probably as significant to the history of the Broads as any one man will ever be. Until 1978 he had never been there. But after 10 years as a professor of urban and regional planning in South Carolina, and three years in Italy, he came back to Britain and applied because "I wanted a problem-solving job". He certainly got one. The selection committee's first choice had withdrawn because he could not stand the prospect of continuous conflict. It was Clark who accepted.

Looking through the files, and talking to the various Broadland factions, it is clear that having lived abroad for 13 years must have been an immense asset to him. Belonging to no particular class or tendency, as an academic architect and planner he stood benevolently aloof from the squabbling and in-fighting over the Broads.

There were factions of extreme naturalists who wanted all the boats banished or restricted in the interests of timid wildlife; yachtsmen baying about ancient rights of navigation; local people who suspected outsiders of wanting to bankrupt their waterside shops and boatyards (an ecology, in its way, as fragile as anything on the riverbank); the Anglian Water Authority, resentful of any interference with its way; the Port and Haven Commissioners, jealous of their responsibilities; and farmers hell-bent on growing wheat on every available square inch of land, however destructive and poisonous this might be to wild habitats.

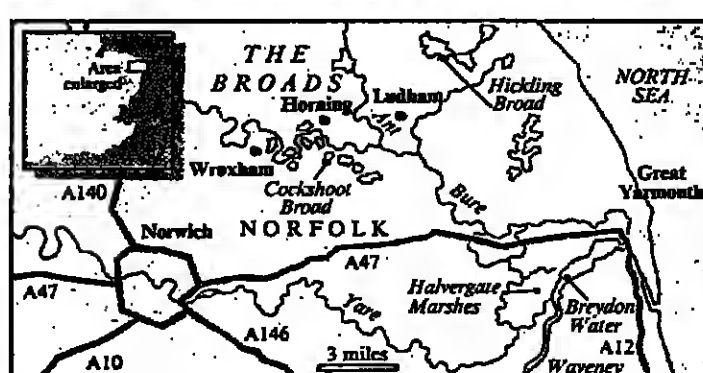
The irrationality of the average argument about the Broads is summed up satirically by Dr Brian Moss, reader in Environmental Studies at the University of East Anglia: "They'll tell you at Norfolk dinner-parties that the worst polluters are day-tripper boats, because they're the cheapest. Next worst are the hire boats, which the local residents claim to be the main problem."

"Of course, yachtsmen with sails can do no wrong, and private motorboat owners are considered not to pollute as badly as hired ones. It's a class thing, and poor old Joe Tourist is the source of all evil. Yet all the time, boat pollution is a complete red herring. That has never been the problem, except for a certain amount of bird disturbance and bank erosion. The really serious pollution comes from elsewhere, and you can't see it or solve it so easily."

Clark listened, nodded in his

diffident way, promised nothing, and set up a series of committees. "I came back to my first architectural discipline, and set a 'project end'. I roped in all the strongest critics I could find from all directions. Brian Moss was the naturalist who was most suspicious of the new authority, so I got him on a working party. I just told them to ask the questions: 'What is this landscape? How good is it, how bad is this water and where? What can we do?'

Continued overleaf



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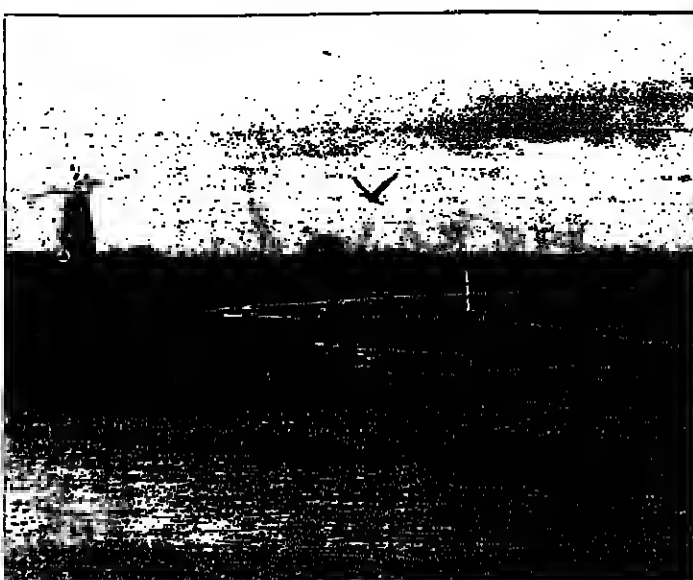
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THE GREENING OF THE BROADS



Breydon Water: a rare marsh habitat saved by the Broads Authority



Across the water: Reedham ferry, the only one left on the Broads, still carries cars and trucks; and an aerial view of the muddy creeks of the River Ant, where water has been pumped and improved by the Broads Authority in an attempt to protect wildlife

Continued from previous page

They always had to come back with possible solutions."

Moir Walland, director of the Norfolk Naturalists' Trust, says: "What he did is bang all our heads together." Her affection for the authority is all the more striking because the trust has no representation on its committee, despite arguing fiercely for it. "But we keep on at them, from outside. They're doing marvellously," she says.

The next step for the fledgling authority was to set up demonstration projects. The most distinguished is Cockshoot Broad, an experiment in which the authority blocked off a small privately owned stretch of water, pumped out the polluted mud and allowed the native aquatic plants to regenerate. It has worked, although unpleasant nitrate residues still leach into the Broad from the

farming catchment area, and will continue to do so for decades. "It proves that we can do it," says David Brewster, the conservation officer. "The clock may take decades to run down on polluted mud, but we can get there."

Cockshoot nourishes water lilies and green plants, butterflies and birds: visitors can follow walkways and see how the Broads were a century ago, and might be again. The psychological impact of Cockshoot Broad is incalculable: for relatively little outlay, the Broads Authority can brandish it like a banner. Other individual Broads are being pumped, "phosphate-stripping" plants have already created some improvement in the water of the River Ant, and Moss has evolved a complicated scheme for encouraging water-fleas (which eat the damaging algae) by temporarily removing fish (which eat the water-fleas).

The bittens, the bird which symbolizes Broadland more than any other, is now more firmly established in Lancashire than it is in East Anglia, where its decline is directly related to water pollution. But the marsh harrier has returned, with 31 breeding pairs recorded last year. When the bittens breed in greater numbers, a significant battle for Broads water quality will have been won.

Aiken Clark says: "Anglian Water was perhaps one of the hard nuts to crack and have a bad press as polluters. But they are taking a number of initiatives, with our encouragement. The idea of water privatization does trouble me, however." Other projects born out of the working parties also took off. Long before the Government's ESA schemes compensated farmers in

environmentally sensitive areas for not ploughing grassland, the Broads Grazing Marsh Conservation Scheme was hammered out. "We found that all this drainage by the big farmers was not necessarily what a number of small farmers really wanted. They wanted to go on putting cattle by the water and being traditional marsh farmers," Clark says. Moderate financial incentives made it possible to preserve rare marsh habitats without conflict.

However, a serious battle raged a few years ago between conservationists and farmers over the proposed draining of the Halvergate Marshes, off Breydon Water. It was perhaps then that the Broads Authority won final reluctant trust from the naturalists' lobby. "We had," says Clark, "all the army of the National Farmers Union against us at full strength, with an outdated cereal growing

policy still geared to the war effort. But we would not move one inch and those lovely solemn grazing marshes are now safeguarded."

Moving on rapidly from talk of battles, he drops a diplomatic word of praise for the NFU and says: "We really do not want to be heavy-handed. We are living in good times: public consciousness of natural fragility is strong."

After the banging together of institutional heads and the steady lobbying against chemical pollution, wooing the public is high priority. It is, after all, the public whose boats erode the banks with inconsiderate wash, whose wind-surfers crash into the reed-beds at Hickling Broad and have, Walland says sadly, "completely frightened off the goldeneye, a migrating duck. Sails are terrifying to nesting birds". The public also pays indirectly for such luxuries as phosphate-strippers and mud-pumps. So "green tourism" — buzzwords coined by the English Tourist Board and the Nature Conservancy Council in cautious partnership — is seen as essential.

The Broads Authority's pastel leaflet on the Fun In The Broads scheme offers eco-friendly whispering electric boat trips to see wildlife, a Bird Bus, a series of walks starting at 5.30am for the dawn chorus, and an evening out on Carlton Marshes for the stirring activity of Hunt the Bogbean. Like the authority's subsidy of the three marvellous Norfolk wherries at Wroxham (which do five-day school trips for £26 a head to raise "green tourists" for the future), it is a deliberate policy of distancing the region from that other kind of Broadland fun peddled in the Seventies, involving silly hats and loud radios, and boats getting stuck under Potter Heigham bridge. After the rorty Seventies, it may take time to sink in. It is only two years since I saw a boater throw a beer-can at a moorhen. It is a long conceptual road from there to a proper reverence for the marsh bogbean.

But Clark will not countenance any uppity middle-class attitudes. Erosion is still a problem, so speed restrictions may intensify, and there will certainly be new curbs on insensitive mooring and such inappropriate pastimes as water-skiing. However, he cheerfully acknowledges that the rascally crowds of partying boats at Horning and Wroxham are also a legitimate form of Fun on the Broads. "We must not be patronizing. Perhaps you and I would like everyone to see the Broads as they should be, not surrounded by the urban razzma-



Aiken Clark: wooing the public

'We would not move one inch and those lovely solemn grazing marshes are now safe'

POOR PEOPLE ABOUT

THE FIGURES:

● Approximately one million annual visitors to the Broads, including: day-tripper boat passengers, 300,000-400,000; weekly let motor cruisers, 200,000 users (2,126 boats in 1986).

● Private boats: 100,000-150,000 visitors a year in 9,346 boats. Maximum density of boats passing census point 1986: 1,000 a day at Hoveton, River Bure.

● Angling licences: 51,000 issued in typical year.

THE WHERRIES:

Norfolk wherries were the main form of cargo transport in Broadland for two centuries, until eliminated by road and rail competition. In the 19th century, some were converted or built as private yachts. A fleet of three, *Hathor*, *Olive* and *Norad*, are supported by the Broads Authority and chartered with professional skippers by Wherry Yacht Charter, Barton House, Hartwell Road, Wroxham Norfolk NR12 8TL (0603 782470). Weekends from £20 a head; there are special rates for school weeks off-season.

tazz of holidaymaking, but people have a right to come for what they want.

He has great faith in the "greenability" of all tourists. "They might come here for rowdy fun but suddenly notice something that brings them nearer to our perception of the Broads, and to an understanding of how they could be."

In the meantime, somewhere off the River Ant, the reeds are shimmering rhythmically. Hidden from the riverbank, Eric Edwards, the Broads Authority's official marshman, is finishing a record winter's harvest of Norfolk thatching reed. A burly figure in vast rubber waders, brandishing a curiously complicated medieval scythe of elder and boxwood, he grabs and combs out each bundle with the deftness of 22 years experience.

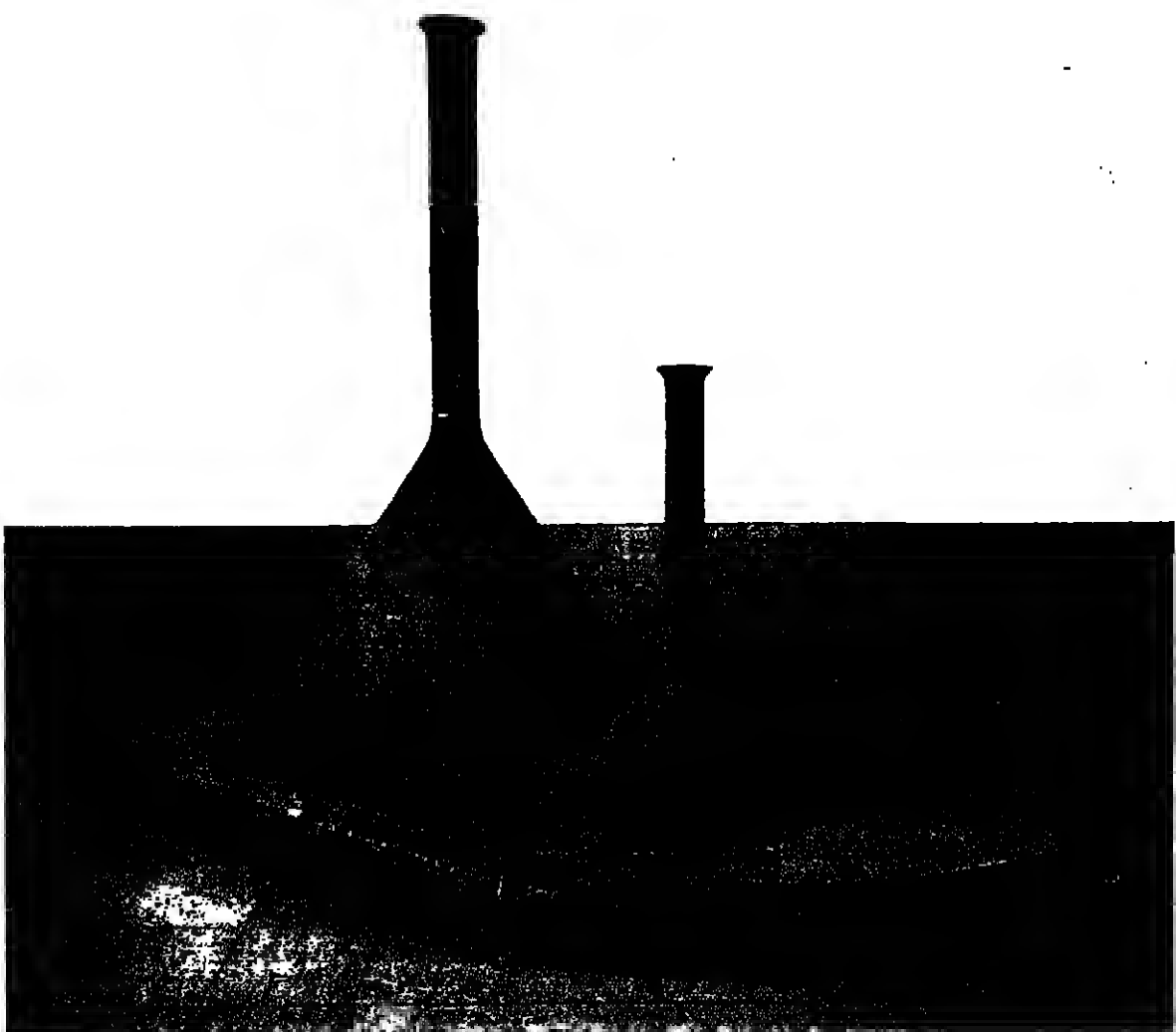
His neat little Japanese reed-cutting tractor stands temporarily idle: a few minutes' cutting by hand in the old way is Edwards's idea of relaxation. Bundling reeds into his standard and refreshingly unmetric unit of "three hand-spans and a bit", he holds forth: "Lovely reed this. Lovely and hard." He brushes the soiled wet ends as if he could never grow tired of them: "Straight, clean,

lovely, I'd put that on my roof any day. Lovely reed. I could talk about reeds all day."

Primitive, effective tools lie around him in the sloppy marsh. Edwards does not much care who pays his wages, but regards his new employers at the Broads Authority with benevolence. "Aiken, he don't know much about reeds. Nah. None of 'em know about reeds like I do. But I'll say this, they're ready enough to listen to people who do know. I'll say that for them."

Under the wide Norfolk sky, wet-footed in the tall pale-golden forest of feathery reeds, I had a sudden cheerful inkling that given steady, unimpulsive political backing, everything might be all right here after all. The regeneration of the Broads may turn out to be a signpost for our times: of a sinking of differences and a readiness to listen, of scientific persistence, and a gentle harnessing of muddled but sincere public goodwill.

Clark went off to yet another meeting in his bare, white office, and down the watery miles around him, through neat villages and boggy woodlands, on shimmering lakes and muddy creeks, lay an ecology of marshmen and boatmen, water-fleas and brochure designers, bogbean-hunters and ice-cream sellers. It might work.



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ART
London 89

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Traditional: Eric Edwards, the marshman, finishing off a record winter's harvest of Norfolk thatching reed

150-160

MUSEUMS

EXHIBITION
CALENDAR

INDIAN DAYS: Three-day workshop for children aged 11-14 exploring the lives of the North American Plains Indians. Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh (031 225 7834 to book). Thurs-Sat, 9.30am and 1.30pm each day. Children £2.50 for three days, helpful parents free.

THE GRAND NATIONAL: Collected trophies, photographs and ephemera to mark the 150th anniversary of Aintree's world-famous steeplechase. National Horseracing Museum, 99 High Street, Newmarket (0638 667333). Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Adults £1.60, children 80p. Until December.

RESTORED TO VIEW: Works from the Chalmers Bequest - 17th-century seascapes and 20th-century pen-and-ink drawings - return after five years' absence. Hackney Museum, Central Hall, Mare Street, London E8 (01-886 6914). Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 1.30-5pm. Free. Until May 6.

EASTER STEAM-UP: For two days the museum's regular collection of steam traction engines will grind into life alongside a Gavioli fairground organ, roundabouts, Bass Museum of Brewing History and Shire Horse Stables, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent (0582 44901). Mon-Fri 10am-4.30pm, weekends 11am-4.30pm. Charge £2; children and OAPs £1. Steam-up tomorrow, Mon.

Jenny Gilbert

MUSEUMS YEAR 1989 THE TIMES

Museums Year Passport holders will be able to welcome HRH the Duchess of York, Patron of Museums Year, to their number this Thursday when she is presented with her own copy of *The Times* Museums Year Guide and Passport. The presentation will take place during the Royal Gala Evening at the International Contemporary Art Fair at London's Olympia, an event which launches a Special Reserve series of events for holders. The Duchess in turn will present the £10,000 British Airways Most Promising Artist award at the event.

● Tickets, which cost £20 per person and £30 a pair, are half-price for Passport holders in the Special Reserve scheme. Tickets can be bought on the night from 6pm at the special Passport holders registration desk at Olympia.



Playing the game: at work on the car history board in the Patrick Collection motor museum, near Birmingham

On the road again

Conquest, Bullnose, RT1 bus -
Simon Tait takes a nostalgic trip

Cars are highly personal objects - witness advertising campaigns built on the proposition that we give them names - and motor has a high nostalgia quotient. So collections tend to be idiosyncratic, to say the least.

The Patrick Collection at King's Norton, outside Birmingham, was opened in 1984 by the West Midlands motor mogul, Alexander Patrick. It was based initially on the family's 1930s "Specials" - sleek aluminium bodies built on standard chassis from Austin, Wolseley and Triumph.

"As time went on we felt that the British motor car was beginning to lose its grip on sales in this country," Patrick says, "so we decided to collect some of the last truly British family motor cars. People say 'Why on earth are you collecting a Mini or a Talbot Alpine or a Ford Cortina?', but these cars are very important."

The exhibits range from a tiny 1930s Atco tractor, little more than a motorized shopping box, to a 1986 Porsche 959, of which only 24 were made. Patrick bought it for £155,000 and was offered £400,000 for it 10 days later. The 80 vehicles on show (of about 250 in the collection) include Gloria Swanson's Daimler Conquest, Richard A. Attenborough's Daimler V8, Graham Hill's BRM, Nigel Mansell's Lotus, and a De Dion Bouton fire engine. "They're all runners except two," says curator John Ward, "and we're working on those."

The collection is housed in

the grounds of a former paper mill Patrick acquired 20 years ago. There is a library, a lecture theatre and a shop, all open this weekend for the first time, and in the summer the mill's 1903 engine house opens as a temporary exhibition hall.

A recent visit to Disneyworld in Florida has influenced developments: he found that courtesy coaches worked, so there are to be two, a one-way traffic flow in the main building will ease congestion, and the shop is to be enlarged.

The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire, was also very much the creation of one man, Lord Montagu. It opened in 1952 with five cars in the front hall and a charge of two-and-sixpence. He declared that if they got 100 visitors by the end of the day they would have champagne for dinner; instead, they had champagne for lunch.

The Beaulieu Motor Museum duly became "national", with half a million visitors a year and 310 vehicles. This year it adds a £2.3 million administration and library block with a 230-seat lecture theatre, and a new vehicle store. There are rides in open-topped buses, a trolley ride through historical tableaux, actors recreating scenes from the motor story, and you can drive a 1920s Morris Bullnose.

Curator Michael Ware believes he has the best-thought-out motor museum in the world (he and colleagues have also ridden the Disney path in the planning process). In 1928, when London Transport were doing an inventory, they found they still had one of the first horse-drawn omnibuses, and decided to preserve it.

In 1980 a new museum for London Transport's burgeoning collection (they pay for the preservation of the objects, the rest of the revenue has to be earned) opened in Covent Garden and this year it, too, has entered a new development phase. The aim, says keeper John Freeborn, is "to intrigue, interest and inform", but an experiment a fortnight ago has added another aspect. Three thousand visitors boarded restored buses brought from other parts of the country on a ride through the West End to Aldwych Underground Station, to ride on brand-new experimental tube stock. "It was an opportunity to do things you can't do elsewhere, which is what the museum is about now - the word 'do' is important," Freeborn says.

The event celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first deep-level tube. Another celebration, in August, will give rides on the first Routemaster bus, the RT1, now 50 years old. The museum has bus cabs in which children can work the controls, and even a simulated driver's seat ride on the Circle Line Underground.

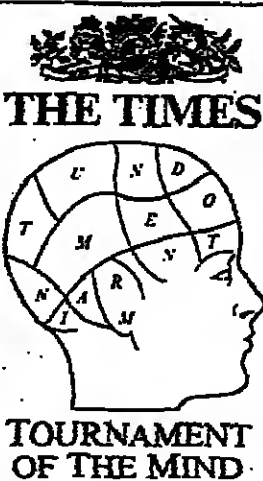
In Hull, where a new transport museum called Sireelife opens in August, in the first phase of a £4 million project by the town's museums service, the vehicles merely provide a back-drop.

The collection was started in the 1920s by Tom Shepherd, who almost single-handedly created Hull's museums. "This is not a museum of transport technology," says Dr David Fleming, Hull's principal keeper of museums. "It's a social history museum using the theme of transport as a way of showing the change of life in the city."

The new museum is next to the old Archaeology and Transport Museum in the medieval High Street, and the original building is being refurbished to become the Hull and East Riding Museum of Landscape.

The huge project is not expected to be complete until 1993, but phase one opens this summer. "We are taking the vehicles and putting them in a socio-economic context, bringing wider local history collections to create a comprehensible picture. The vehicles will be scattered around the building illustrating separate themes, so you don't find all the horse-drawn buses together."

Tournament of the Mind



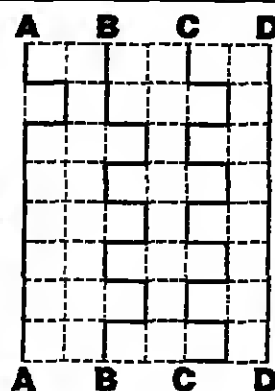
● With 10 rounds completed, *The Times* Tournament of the Mind enters its second half today. Puzzle-solvers taking part will know that the problems are beginning to get a little harder. They should stick with it - the top 100 individuals will go through to the finals, and they are unlikely all to need the maximum score of 1,000 points.

● The Tournament is devised by Mensa. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *Collins English Dictionary* are the main sources.

● The prize for *The Times* Mind of 1989 is £5,000, and for the top school, a Hewlett Packard personal computer.

1 DIAGRAMS Score 8

In this diagram the squares represent street blocks. Each street block is 6 squares miles. Van A travels at 21 miles per hour, van B at 30 miles per hour and van D at 17 miles per hour. Assuming they all start at the same time which one will deliver its load first?



MISC. Score 16

1. What is the next letter in the series?
D F G H J K ? (Score 2)
2. What is a "German 88"? (Score 4)
3. What is a goby? (Score 3)
4. Which American suspension bridge (1,280m long) was completed in 1937? (Score 4)
5. What is the second largest of the Maltese islands? (Score 3)

2 VERBAL Score 10

Replace the first letter of each word either side of the brackets with a different letter. The letter should be the same for each word and will form an English word. Repeat this for each of the eight pairs and place the letters in the brackets. You should then be able to read a tasty word downwards. What is that word?

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| BRIM () | FLAN |
| OTTER () | ONION |
| BOOR () | ION |
| CROWN () | VIAL |
| GRATE () | ODES |
| STONE () | CAME |
| HORSE () | FOOD |

3 LOGIC Score 8

If the code for BLACK is 23, 7, 22, 24, 6, what is the code for WHITE?

4 MATHS Score 8

A cricketer's average in his first 15 innings was 80 runs. After a further 6 innings his average had increased to 89 runs. What was his average for the last 6 innings only?

ROUND 11 - ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2
Answer 3 Answer 4

MISCELLANY

Answer 1 Answer 2
Answer 3
Answer 4
Answer 5
NAME

OUTINGS

Eggs, bonnets and a parade

A selection of events around the country over the holiday weekend

INTERNATIONAL MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION: World's largest specialist model railway exhibition, opened at 11am this morning by the Rev Wilbert Awdry, author of the Thomas the Tank Engine books. Many different layouts, gauges, competition winners and Network South East's full-size replica of the "Network", the futuristic commuter train scheduled to enter service in the 1990s. RHS Halls, Vincent Square and Greycoat Street, London SW1. Today until Mar 30. Today until Mon 10.30am-6pm, Tues, Wed 10.30am-6pm, Thurs 10.30am-5pm. Admission today, Mon to Wed, adult £5, child 5-15 £2. Sun and Thurs, adult £4, child £1.50.

CRAFTS ON THE FARM: Craft demonstrations and items for sale in various parts of the 1930s working farm. Young farm animals, children's entertainments, free cart rides, Morris dancers. Refreshments. Totton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 44622) today, tomorrow, Mon 10.30am-4.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

EASTER EGG HUNTS: Thousands of small chocolate eggs hidden throughout the grounds with - at Lapsley Castle - 50 extra silver eggs and three golden eggs with prizes; and at Littlecote, one golden egg with prize. Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, Kent (0622 65400). Today, tomorrow, Mon 11am-5pm. Egg hunt from 2.30pm. Adult £4.80, child £3.30. Littlecote House, Hungerford, Berkshire (0488 84000). Tomorrow, Mon 10am-5pm, adult £4.50, child £3.50.

The Knightley Way, named after the family of Fawsley Hall, was established in 1972, providing a first-rate route in a fine part of the Midlands. This walk follows its well way-marked first half.

The path starts in Badby, a complex village with a good church. Opposite the church head south along a footpath, which soon bears right and enters Badby Wood. The path keeps close to its west edge before entering briefly and then heading through another, smaller wood. Keep heading south into the parkland of Fawsley, the path converging on a drive which you cross.

EASTER AT THE LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM: Working scale models of a 1936 stock red Underground train, plus two new exhibitions. London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-797 6344). Today until Mar 31, daily 10am-6pm. Last admission 5.15pm. Adult £2.60, child £1.20.

TRADITIONAL FOOD FAIR: Many displays and demonstrations of local and regional produce. Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex (0243 63349). Tomorrow, Mon 11am-4pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.25.

EASTER AT KNEBWORTH: Re-enactment of battles of the American Civil War. Today an infantry drill demonstration, tomorrow and Mon full skirmishes. Plus an authentic recreation of village life of the period. Knobworth House, Knobworth, Hertfordshire (0438 812651). House and garden open noon-5pm, performances daily from 2.30pm. Admission to park and displays adult/child £1.80.

DEAL BRADDERIE: Massive market in the town centre and on the seaford with charity stalls, street entertainers, pop groups, indoor antiques and craft fairs, train displays, hog roast and other refreshments. Deal, Kent, Mon 9.30am-5pm.

THAMES EASTER ANTIQUES FAIR: 50 exhibitors selling maps, furniture, prints,

paintings, glass, jewellery, ceramics and other items to pre-1930 date. Larches available. Spread Eagle Hotel and Town Hall, Thame, Oxfordshire (084421 3661). Today 10am-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

EASTER PARADE: Entertainments from noon lead up to a massive fireworks display at 8pm followed by the traditional parade with marching bands and floats. Battersea Park, London SW11. Tomorrow from noon. Free.

HELP A LONDON CHILD AUCTION: Capital Radio hosts the auction, with many items donated by local traders - including a weekend in Paris, two tickets for the Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr concert, teddy bears and toys, a candlelit dinner for two.

EASTER STEAMINGS: Many steam railways will be in full operation over the holiday including Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (0235 517200) and the Kent and East Sussex Steam Railway, Tenterden, Kent (05806 5700).

EASTER AT MARGAM PARK: Mock battles with over a thousand members of the Sealed Knot Society, archery, tug of war, craft fairs, refreshments. Margam Park, Port Talbot, (0639 871131). Today, tomorrow, Monday.

MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY: Family day in the Commissioner's House garden with treasure hunt, face painting, Punch and Judy, games and music.

CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD: Dock Road, Chatham, Kent (0634 812551). Monday from 2pm. Adult £2.50 child £1.50.

ROSSENDALE FESTIVAL: Try your hand at willow weaving today, stone carving demonstration tomorrow and a circular walk around Haslingden, egg treasure trail for children on Monday plus exhibitions and light refreshments. Groundworks Countryside Centre, Flawinshall, Haslingden, Lancashire (0706 211421). Today, tomorrow, Monday, admission free.

EASTER ACTIVITIES IN THE ROYAL PALACES: Egg hunts at Hampton Court and Kensington Palace followed by art and craft activities. The Buttery Kitchens, Hampton Court and the Education Centre, Kensington Palace. Monday 10am-noon and 2pm-4pm. Admission to Hampton Court, adult £1.80, child £1.40; to Kensington Palace, adult £2.50, child £1.30. Under-5s free at both. 50p per session.

CANAL DAY AT CAMDEN LOCK: Trips on the Invicta launch, guided walks to the zoo, narrow boats and traditional boat painting, stalls, workshops, films and prizes. Camden Lock, London NW1 (01-485 4457). Monday mid morning onwards, admission free, charge for boat trips.

Judy Froshaug

Noble pursuit

WEEKEND WALK

Head for the church isolated in the park, with medieval ridge-and-furrow beneath much of the sheep-cropped turf of the park.

Richard Knightley bought the Manor of Fawsley in 1415, and he and his son began a process of evicting the villagers to replace them with sheep pasture. All that re-

mains of the villages are the earthworks of their houses south of Fawsley Hall and around the church. From the church, containing superb monuments to the Knightley family, head south between the two lakes and climb out of the valley. Cross four fields to meet the road into Preston Capes, an attractive village with an impressive church.

Past Major Farm, head north-east along a path to pick up the road. Follow this for a mile, turning right on to a path at the edge of Mandel's Heath wood. Beyond the wood turn left on to a bridleway that becomes a farm road, and then



right into the village of Farthingstone where, if well timed, the pub will be open.

Martin Andrew

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EATING OUT

Twee's company

Nice place, shame about the dinky bread pots. Jonathan Meades reports

There is no mistaking it, the British disease is gentility. It can be dangerous. Look what happens when it afflicts full-backs. Full-backs are meant to behave like Mark "The Man Not The Ball" Dennis, that is to say they're meant to spit, swear, fight. But occasionally, they are virally infected by gentility or, as we doctors call it, *Morbidity Morningside*.

Take Dennis's Southampton predecessor, Alf Ramsey. Something happened to him between his leaving the Dell in '49 and his succession of Walter Winterbottom as England team manager 13 years later - he transformed himself from Alf into H'Alf and got caught along the way, eventually going so far as to call the 1966 H'Argentinian team "h'animals", thus fomenting the Anglophobia which culminated in the Falklands War.

Now, I doubt that the menu prose at Jason's Court Restaurant is likely to have such momentous consequences, but I do reckon that it will prompt punters to tear their hair out, wince at its whimsy, scream at its twee-ness. What this place needs is a touch of Mark Dennis. Its bairs and graces, its h'aspirations to tertiary Morningside, extend, I'm afraid, way beyond such constructions as "parcel of..." and "gathering of..."

They extend to the (not very good) bread which is served in the dinky little flowerpots it is baked in. They extend to Kliner jars of pickled onions that are not only

labelled as being the work of the chef, Shaun Thomson, but are also autographed by him. They extend to glasses big enough to put your head in, to a waiter asking "How do you find the water, sir?", to vegetables served in cutesy little saucepans. Further, the menu is not just pretentious, it is also illiterate: its is spelt *it's*, suggesting that it's the work of a signwriter, Chapuiter and Duteoune are spelt thus.

None of this would matter, I guess, were it not for the fact that Jason's Court is potentially a rather good joint. Strip away the hand-crafted mantle of gentility and you've got a proper restaurant. It's to be found down an unmapped alley in Marylebone, opposite the north end of St Christopher's Place, close to Marylebone Lane and next to the Svenson Hair Centre on Wigmore Street. Its basement premises once housed an Italian gaff where immortal Luigi conducted assaults of a different sort. The hangover comprises roughcast walls, arched alcoves, bits of beam.

Chef Thomson, the onion picker, used to be at the Fitzrovia place called Auntie's. He is a quondam pupil of Antoo Mossman, to whom credit must go not merely as the man who breathed new life into trad English dishes, but also as the teacher and inspirator of a generation of native chefs - he showed them (and his punters) that gastronomy begins at home. Thomson's bread and butter pudding, for instance, is a faithful and delicious lift from Mossman.

His cooking strikes me as having come on a bit since he left Auntie's. It's not so preciously basic as it was there, and is apparently less constrained by cost. For instance, he now serves "potted livers of maize-fed geese", ie foie gras terrine. Translating this into English is about as painful and elegant as the vernacular Mass - French is the lingua franca of menus, and to depart from it is sheer affectation. This went unsampled. The first



All his own work: chef Shaun Thomson at Jason's Court signs another original example of kitchen pickling art

courses that were tasted were, first, sauté of mixed wild mushrooms that had been preserved in different ways - some, perhaps, in brine, others in sherry; alongside them was a pastry sculpture of a tall-stiped mushroom, something of the genus *Agaricus* perhaps? Second, haggis. Yes, haggis. This was the first time I've seen it on a London menu. It was excellent, and properly served with mashed potatoes and swedes. The wine waiter kindly suggested it might be improved by having whisky poured on it. It wasn't improved, the kindness killed it. Still, it's good to see someone at last serving one of Britain's finest dishes.

Main courses were a thick chunk of slightly too dry veal with bacon and oysters, sauced with tomato and port; and a big beef rib with, again, a slightly too dry herb crust, and a sauce made with meat. The best of the vegetables was potato, sliced and cooked in stock. As I said, the bread and butter pudding was terrific stuff. And the cheeses were splendid, all English or Irish, all unpasteurized: Speowood, Cheddar, Cashel Blue and a goat "Brie" called Veda Gedi.

The wine list is a bit of a problem: it's not that it is avaciously marked up, rather that its bottom rung is too high. If the undoubted enterprise used in compiling it were to be directed towards a few bargains from, say, Australia, then it would be notable. And so, indeed,

would the restaurant, were it to present itself in a more down-to-earth manner. Still, it has the most important ingredient, a gifted chef who, despite his debt to his master (or perhaps because of it), is clearly developing into a truly accomplished craftsman. Two will pay about £75, including a decent tip for some decent service.

For all its infuriating failings it is impossible not to acknowledge that Jason's Court has been created with its own rules, is insouciant of the herd. The Beak Street Restaurant, on the other hand, gives the appearance of having been created in response to market research. It's so strivingly fashionable that it's no surprise to learn that it is owned by nags. It is apparently waited in by them too; the staff look as though they have been bought wholesale from some fearfully expensive little shop in South Molton Street. They gather in little groups to talk clothes, and the greeter wears a suit that was last seen on Rip Kirby; he also has that shammy's specs and hair cream. The decor adheres to a sort of astrological theme: there are murals and anti-macassars (necessary, I suppose, if the punters too go for the Rip Kirby look). The walls are a dusty euboean blue, the lights are vaguely 1950s, in what was called the "contemporary" style. You don't have to be a fashion victim to eat here, but it helps. The night I was there my fellow diners included

not one, but two pop groups and their *vivandiers*. The cocktail list includes all the most fashionable flavoured vodkas, all the most fashionable imported beers. The bar, however, is run by someone who has as much idea of how to mix a dry martini as I have of how to play a Fender Stratocaster. The wine list appears to have been composed by someone who has wandered round a few supermarkets - still, the wines are reasonably priced and some of them, including a Bandol, are unexceptionable.

The cooking is, perhaps, not the main point in a place like this. It isn't duff, but it is rather directionless. A couple of first course salads, one of (tiny) scallops, the other of gravadax, were both accompanied by enough lettuce to feed several warrens of fashionable rabbits. And rabbits don't have dressing on their salads. Main courses comprised pretty good calf liver with bacon and onions, and monkfish with tomato and (it said) coriander - this arrived stone cold, and had to go back for reheating. A "grand selection" of sweets was impressive - there were notably good chocolate mousses and the lemon tart was well made. Two will pay about £60 in the evening and quite a lot less at lunchtime, when the menu includes such things as bubble and squeak - which is entirely appropriate in a restaurant on the site of a former taverna.

DIRECTORY

This is a changing selection of restaurants visited in recent months - managements and standards may have changed. Stars - up to a maximum of 10 - are for cooking rather than service and chandeliers. Dishes described are included to give an indication of the cooking but may well have changed. Prices quoted are for a three-course meal with drinks for two, and are determined according to the "When in Rome" principle: in the case of French places, the cost of a bottle of modest wine; in the case of oriental ones, beer or lassi in the case of Indian ones and so on. J.M.

ABOVE AVERAGE

The Oak Room
Le Meridien, 19-21 Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8000)
★★★★★
Fiducially competent Edwardian baroque dining room with brilliant French cooking by David Chambers - facilities of turbot and salmon with lobster sauce, sea bass with a medley of foie gras and salmon, beef with lactarius mushrooms and spinach. There are rarely mistakes of either taste or technique, but portions tend to the miserly and mark-ups on the impressive wines are greedy: £120.

Bibendum
Michelin House, 81 Falmouth Road, London SW3 (01-581 5817)
★★★★★
Elegant and fashionable restaurant which releases the bistro and bistrotte dishes of the day before yesterday to heights they never scaled there. Some of Simon Hopkinson's sauces are on the side of over-emphasis but the majority of the classic dishes are spot on: file de veau, coq au vin, maitre d'hotel, beef daube, sole meuniere, omelette, beef daube, sole meuniere, omelette, beef daube, sole meuniere, omelette.

Jacques
130 Blackstock Road, London NW (01-359 9410)
★★★★★
Looks like a junk shop but is in fact a delicious, very French restaurant whose cooking is simple, sophisticated and painstaking. The eponymous host, who is famous for being himself, has accumulated an impressive cellar: £70.

Vioche
54 Camberwell Church Street, London SE5 (01-701 7621)
★★★★★
Very French bistro frequented by very French punters. The cooking is altogether good and generally south-western - duck confit, cassoulet, that sort of thing. The portions are massive and the staff are unusually welcoming. Indifferent wine list, non-stop cherron. £50.

Wilson's
236 Blythe Road, London W14 (01-803 7267)
★★★★★
Austere decorated little neighbourhood restaurant whose Anglo-French cooking is of a standard acceptable with much more elevated prices. The dishes

certainly do not sound that promising and certain of the combinations - pile with goat cheese sauce, goose breast with quince jam - suggest a desperate scrambling for novelty. But they, and many like them, work astonishingly well. Much improved wine list, friendly service, £45.

Burton's
7a The Green, Ealing, London W5 (01-840 3237)
★★★★★

This first-floor dining room, approached through a flowery courtyard, belongs more to Middlesex than it does to the capital - it is a bit less-appealing in style. The kitchen, though, is a good one. Dishes such as venison with onion marmalade, smoked haddock mousses, duck with blackcurrant and faba beans, chocolate souffles are all delicious. £25.

Garden Restaurant
Gatwick Hilton, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (0293 518000)
★★★★★

Astonishing. A Hilton hotel in the middle of an airport with a serious restaurant. The cooking is highly accomplished - fresh fish, noodles with sweetbreads, chicken and beef; outstanding grouse with celeriac purée; marvellously pungent Burgundian cheeses. Interesting wine. Competent and friendly service. £70.

FISH

Jade Restaurant
100a Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 333355)
★★★★★

Cantonese fish establishment whose simpler dishes are preferable to those which involve greasy batter. Stewed muskell, carp and scallops are all worth trying. £40.

La Bouillabaisse
116 Finchborough Road, London SW10 (01-370 4183)
★★★★★

Fluffy ornamented basement which serves a rather unimpressive version of the eponymous dish at a high price. The rest of the mainly piscine cooking is rather better and the cheeses and patisseries are sound. £77.

PIZZAS

Pizzeria Castello
20 Waltham Road, London SE1 (01-703 2556)
★★★★★

The best pizza in London by a long way. Big restaurant, ranks of pizza ovens by the door, utilitarian décor, fantastic bustle as though this was the busiest of the busy. The pizzas are very low for cooking of such excellence. Drink Coke Seco. The pasta dishes are perfectly OK but don't mind the main business of the place. £20.

Pizzeria Condotti
4 Mill Street, London W1 (01-498 1308)
★★★★★

Bustling smart place hung with knifed 1970s prints. Well made pizza. Drink Peroni beer or champagne, there is little between to bother with. With the latter £42.

RESTAURANT GUIDE

Easter Brunch

This Easter we are giving the best two brunches in London. On Sunday, Easter Day from noon to 3pm we host our special Easter Day Brunch with a colouring contest and Easter egg hunt for all the children. £15 and £7.50 for under 12s.

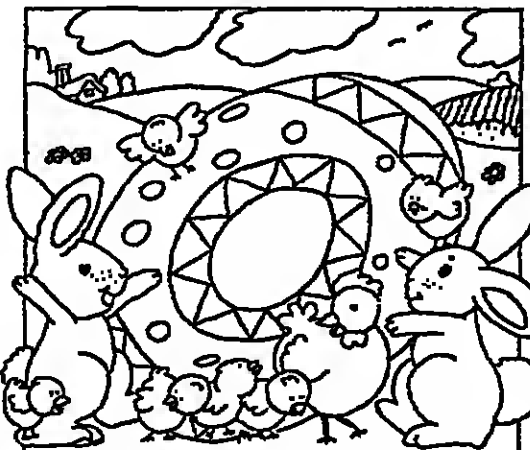
On Easter Monday our famous Jazz brunch will be in full swing. The colouring contest continues and prizes will be awarded for the best efforts and enjoy a bottle of wine, with our compliments on presentation of this ad. £13.75 and £6.75 for under 12s.

Happy Easter

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DRINK

Big, beefy blockbuster

Jane MacQuitty favours a red Easter - beginning with Australia's finest

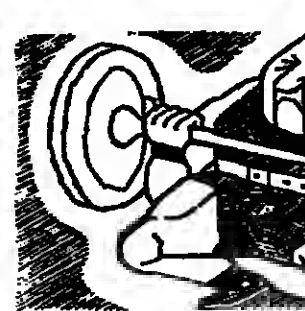
With Easter falling so early this year, polishing off the last of the winter reds and week-end appeals more than cracking open the first of the spring whites. And as it's a holiday, I shall spoil myself with a bottle of what the wine world generally acknowledges as Australia's finest red wine: Penfold's Grange Hermitage.

1981 Grange is on sale today at 75 branches of Threshers for £24.95, not extortionate given that La Vigneronne is selling the same vintage for £29.50. This extraordinary wine has an extraordinary history. Grange was devised by Max Schubert, one of the great men in Australia's wine history, who, after a visit to Bordeaux in 1950, modelled his new wine as closely as he could on the production methods of the first-division clarets he had tasted in France. Australia, in those days, had few Cabernet Sauvignon plantings, so Schubert had to use the ubiquitous Shiraz, or Syrah grape. But he selected the best Shiraz fruit he could find, from first-class vineyards close to Adelaide.

His aim was to make the biggest, beefiest, most concentrated red wine possible, and to age it in small, new oak casks, a practice he had first seen in France, but which was unheard of at that time in Australia. The end result was an astonishingly intense, rich, burnt, port-like mouthful, with overtones of leather, herbs, cressets and tar, backed up by an enormous thrack of luscious blackberry and blackcurrant-like fruit. Once tasted, Grange's unmistakable character is never forgotten.

Penfold's was embarrassed by the cool reception that the early vintages of Grange received, and told Schubert to stop making the wine; but he continued to produce Grange secretly. Today's Grange has become lighter and more approachable in style, although this was hotly disputed in Australia in December by John Duval, Penfold's talented chief winemaker, who said it was nothing more than "seasonal variation". Suffice it to say that Grange '81, with its opaque, purple-red colour and rich, truffled, cassis scent, leading on to a hefty, burnt, cedary palate, is definitely worth experiencing.

It was the traditional Easter Sunday dish, and Beaujolais is its traditional partner.



Domaine Aufranc (£5.25). If you have guests for Easter and want to keep the wine costs down, Oodibins continues to outshine the other High Streeters with its top wines at low prices. They have just got hold of Paul Jaboulet Aine's '87 Cuvée-Hermitage, the superior Domaine de Thabert variety, for a knock-down £3.99 (Majestic sold the '86 vintage of this wine for £5.49 a bottle). This hearty late winter red boasts a deep purple-black colour, backed up by that unmistakable Jaboulet combination of black pepper spice and rich, ripe, black and red berry fruit on the palate. Strictly speaking this wine should not be braced for several years yet.

cases-only stocks of Delamotte's glorious 1982 vintage champagne, whose flowery peppery scent and intense, elegant, flowery palate is given away at £17.5 a case (£14.55 a bottle). So far, Corney is the only stockist of this sensational stuff, produced by Delamotte Père et Fils, which sounds like a small champagne house but is actually part of the large Nonancourt family empire, whose other interests in champagne include Laurent Perrier and Salon Le Mesnil. This offer closes on March 31. Talking of offers, one not worth switching the Boat Race off for is the Sunday Times Wine Club's latest. Having tasted more club horrors than

delights over the past decade, I should be immune by now to their ultra-appetizing tasting notes and smooth sales talk. But no, every time I read one of their glowing communications I rush to the phone. The club's March wine list featuring "Eight unique French wines" from the "flying winemakers" illustrates my stupidity perfectly. I first heard about this enterprise from wine man Dr Tony Jordan in Australia last December; he had organized a group of Antipodean winemakers to fly to south-west France to vinify the 1988 French harvest. Jordao's top-notch reputation, plus those of his flying winemakers, Australian Martin Shaw and John Belsham from New Zealand, convinced me that this offer could not be missed.

Having just tasted the eight wines, I can assure you that this is no dual Franco-Australian celebration, as I had hoped, but merely an acceptable but not especially exciting collection of young, well-made, squeaky clean white, red or rose southern French wines. It is intriguing to speculate how different they would have been without the Antipodean input; I am sure they would have been rather more rustic and less hi-tech in style, but they might have had more flavour. New technology is fine when it allows the original fruit to shine out, unmasked by faulty fermentation aromas and the like, but not when it streamlines it to distraction. Still, those who want to see what all the fuss is about should order the £49.95 Sampler Case from the Sunday Times Wine Club, New Aquitaine House, Paddock Road, Reading RG3 4JZ. In it are two bottles each of a neutral, lemony Chardonnay, a tart herbaceous Cabernet Sauvignon, a zesty Syrah, and a straightforward peachy Semillon, plus a bottle each of four other wines. For the same £4.16 a bottle that these sample case wines cost, you can purchase finer, more flavourous wines either from elsewhere in France or Australia. If you would like to taste these wines, but don't want to buy the case, why not attend the club's event at 7.30pm on March 31 at the Swan Hotel in Stratley-on-Thames? All 12 wines will be available for tasting, topped up by a finger buffet. Tickets are £30 each; order them direct from the club.

WINE BUYS

1987 Cloudy Bay Chardonnay £9.99. Threshers. Wine makers David Hohnen and Kevin Judd continue their successful Antipodean partnership with this splendid Chardonnay, whose pale, greeny-gold colour, and elegant, fresh, ripe, buttery-zesty scent and taste make it one of the finest New Zealand Chardonnays around. 1986 Mount Horrocks Cabernet-Merlot £7.25.

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THE TIMES COOK

Wet, flat and smoked

Support your local fishmonger, Frances Bissell urges

Karin Perry spent two years searching through England, Scotland and Wales for good fishmongers where helpful and knowledgeable service is combined with a fresh and varied selection of fish. The fishmonger is a species in decline, but the results of Perry's research are published this week in *The Fish Book*, and fortunately she has found some notable survivors. The book, with each chapter devoted to a different region, is a snapshot of the fish trade in Britain today. We learn why the Lincolnshire port of Boston is no longer a major fishing port, and hear about some of the many absurdities surrounding the fish trade — for example, why it is easier for a Birmingham fishmonger to get supplies of samphire from Rungis, in Paris, than from Norfolk; why lorries with huge fish tanks from France and Spain queue up as the boats are unloaded to buy up our catches of prime flat fish and exquisite shellfish.

For too long, she warns, we have regarded fish as a cheap food, or even worse, as a cheap alternative to meat. And she is right. I recently heard someone on the radio saying that if it had been a good week, he could have steak and chips, but if it was a bad week for sales, he would be reduced to fish and chips.

Let us hope it is not too late. Start supporting your local fishmonger. And if you move to a different part of the country, consult Perry's book. Or take it with you on your travels in Britain so that you can hunt out Cornish brill and Yarmouth bladders, and find the fishmongers who smoke their own fish without dyes.

The Fish Book is also a rich source of fish recipes, from the simple to the more elaborate, from those using the familiar plaice and cod to those using fish flown in from the Seychelles, and the less familiar fish from our own waters which make excellent and inexpensive dishes. This is the only book I know which describes in detail how to make and preserve salmon eggs like caviar.

The first two recipes are from her book. I am sure, however, that she would not mind my suggesting that if you cannot get Jerusalem artichokes for the first recipe, new potatoes would also be delicious. The earthy flavour of artichokes seems to marry well with shellfish. If possible, serve the salad while the artichokes are still slightly warm.

Mussel and Jerusalem artichoke salad
(Serves 4)
2lb/1kg mussels, cleaned
¾-1lb/350-450g Jerusalem artichokes
2-3 shallots, finely chopped
8fl oz/250ml white wine
4 tbsp olive oil or 2 tsp



each olive oil and sunflower oil
1 tsp lemon juice
pepper
mixture of salad leaves
chopped parsley

Scrub the artichokes and boil them in their skins. When they are tender, drain, peel and cut them into slices. Put the cleaned mussels in a pan with the shallots and white wine and cook them over a high heat until they open. Remove the mussels and take them out of their shells. Set aside with a spoonful of the cooking juices to prevent them drying out. Strain the rest of the juices through muslin into a clean saucepan and reduce rapidly until only three tablespoons of liquid remain. Lower the heat and whisk in the oil so that it becomes emulsified. Add the lemon juice and pepper. Arrange the salad leaves, sliced artichokes and mussels on individual plates and spoon the warm dressing over the top. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Goujons of huss with red pepper sauce
(Serves 4)
1½lb/680g huss, filleted
wholemeal flour
clarified butter or olive oil
black olives to garnish (optional)

For the sauce
2 tsp finely chopped shallots
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tsp olive oil
2 medium red peppers

1 tsp tomato concentrate
small sprig of thyme
1 tsp wine vinegar
8fl oz/250ml fish or chicken stock or water
salt and pepper

First prepare the red pepper sauce. Sweat the shallots and garlic in oil, then add the roughly chopped peppers together with the rest of the ingredients. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes or until the peppers are soft. Reduce if it seems too liquid. Season to taste. I find that if I grill the peppers before cooking to remove the skin, allowing the flesh to become a little charred, their flavour is improved.

Dogfish is the name applied to a number of different families and species of small sharks. They are usually sold commercially as huss, flake or rigg, also rock eel or rock salmon. Normally these fish are headed and skinned at the port of landing, so it is not easy to identify them on the fishmonger's slab, but there are several species commonly caught in British waters.

Cut the fish into fingers and roll in seasoned wholemeal flour. Fry in clarified butter or olive oil until golden. Garnish with stoned and sliced black olives, if you like, and serve with rice and crisp green vegetables.

Like Perry, I could happily cook and serve two or three fish courses

in one meal, but not everyone shares this passion. Nor does everyone have access to good wet fish shops.

Here is a very good roast recipe. It requires time spent on it in preparation, but once it is in the oven, it needs little attention. Breast of lamb can be substituted for the veal, but it is fatter and needs more trimming. If you cannot get sweetbreads, use veal or lamb's kidney, neither of which need blanching, but the fatty core should be removed. Order the meat in advance, boned and trimmed, and ask for the bones.

Roast breast of veal stuffed with sweetbreads and herbs
(Serves 6)
¾lb/340g calves sweetbreads
2½lb/1.1kg breast of veal
salt
pepper
1 lemon
¾lb/340g fresh spinach leaves
2oz/60g fresh parsley
handful fresh sorrel or 4 lettuce leaves
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
1oz/30g softened butter
1 tsp chopped fresh tarragon leaves
veal bones
1 carrot
1 onion
1 celery stalk
½pt/280ml white wine
Soak the sweetbreads in cold water

Put the fish in a sieve, and pour boiling water over them to remove any oil or preserving spray. Poach them gently until tender in the jasmine tea, together with the bay leaves. Remove them from the syrup with a slotted spoon, and put them on one side. Reduce the liquid to about ½pt/200ml, sweetened if you think it needs it, and rebottle until syrupy. Pour off half into a jug, and with the remaining syrup boil vigorously, stir in the double cream, and cook it until slightly thickened. Served the fish, still warm, on individual serving plates with the clear syrup to one side and the cream sauce to the other.

The Fish Book by Karin Perry is published by Chatto & Windus, price £14.95.

COLLECTING

More strings to their bow

Jenny Gilbert examines the boom in violins as the dealers arrive in London

In the well-heeled environs of Bond Street and St James's, the sight of large numbers of foreign gentlemen in raincoats is common enough. That this week many of them are carrying violin cases should be no cause for alarm: the fiddle-trading season has arrived.

Phillips has just brought down the hammer on 300 lots of instruments and bows; at the end of the month, Sotheby's and Christie's will, between them, dispatch several hundred more, including a couple of first-class specimens which may tip the half-million pound mark, a precedent set last year at Sotheby's when a Guarneri violin, made in Cremona in 1743, sold for a cool £572,000.

Our auction houses offer the only regular specialist instrument sales in the world. Hence the influx, three times a year, of dealers from the Continent, America and, more recently and significantly, Korea and Japan, where the more talented and persevering of students taught by the Suzuki method on cheap Japanese instruments are now clamouring for better, preferably antique, European models.

Learning to play the fiddle has never been more popular; collecting, for recreation or investment or both, is growing in popularity across the range, from spiral-

"It started with a bump in 1971," recalls Graham Wells, the head of instruments at Sotheby's.

"In '69 the record for a Strad was £22,000, and only two years later we sold the famous 1721 Lady Blunt Stradivarius for £84,000." In a normal week Wells and his colleagues can expect to be presented with between 50 and 60 violins for valuation which bear the legend "Stradivarius" on the label stuck inside. It is a task which rarely excites him. "I spot them as they come through the door. German factories churned out tens of thousands of these from 1830 to the end of the century. Faces that when I tell people their bedroom might fetch a couple of hundred pounds."

The buying and selling of violins has been riddled with such "confusions" since the 17th century, and although outright fraud reached its peak in the 19th century, the practices continue: original labels are swapped around; fingerboards or tailpieces are doctored, or replaced by "better" ones; modern instruments can be "antiqued" with frightening skill, simulating the subtle patterns of wear acquired by 200 years of use.

If the value of a fiddle were determined purely by the sound it produced, none of this

would matter. But since no two players would ever agree (what's honey-toned to one ear is muddy to another), violins tend to be treated as works of art. The form and finish, the quality of craftsmanship, are what counts, and authenticity is paramount.

Wells and his team spend every working day engaged in the most exacting detective work. With the work of literally thousands of makers in circulation, and pitifully few books of reference on the subject, the task is Herculean. Malcolm Sadler, for one, prefers to cast his own eye-glass over all the salerooms' offerings, as he has done for more than 40 years. His shop, Ealing Strings, is a west London mecca for fiddle enthusiasts, with violins on sale from £600 up to £150,000.

"Never speculate," he insists as a first principle. "Don't look for bargains, and do take advice. There are countless fiddles of no known origin on the market. People get excited, think they've found something special, but it always turns out to be junk."

His current tip is to look for good modern instruments. "Antonio Capella makes quality Italian instruments and at £3,000-4,000 you can't go wrong. They'll always be sought after, and when he dies, the value will rocket. The same goes for William Lough, one of our finest English makers."

Bows are a simpler proposition. Apart from the joy of their slender beauty and often rich materials (gold, silver, mother-of-pearl, tortoiseshell or ivory), they need to be kept in no special conditions — even the bottom of a drawer will do.

The best fiddles came from France, the best classical bows from France. (Makers always specialized in one or the other; the two rarely appear as a set.) The Eugene Sartory is the great name to look out for in bows," says Sadler. "But again be wary: people say he made 1,000 bows, of which 3,000 are in America. Even in his lifetime people made copies stamped 'Sartory'. He got a reputation for going round breaking them over his knee."

Even violins and bows which come to sale with certificates of authentication have been proved to be fakes. In the trade, both dealers and salerooms will compensate the purchaser of a fake. Modest collectors would do well to narrow the field, Sadler says. He suggests specializing in, say, all 19th-century English makers or German, whose reputation has been unjustly tarnished by the factory-made jobs.

'He made 1,000 bows, of which 3,000 are in America'

CHESS

Fiercely fought to a draw

Usually the games which appear in this column have a decisive result, one way or the other. Drawn games suffer from a bad press. Indeed, contentless agreements to split the point are certainly not worthy of publication. It would be wrong, though, to assume that no drawn games are interesting. A well-fought draw can be every bit as stirring as a win. Take, for example, the following fierce battle between Britain's highest-rated player and the 17-year-old who is tipped by many experts to be his successor. The advantage appears to swing back and forth, though in reality, the positions are probably more or less in equilibrium the whole time. It takes, however, play of an extremely high order on both sides to demonstrate this. White: Nigel Short; Black: Michael Adams. James Capel Speed Chess Challenge, London 1989. Caro-Kann Defence.

Black cannot play the tempting 8... Qxd4 on account of 9 Ng13 Qd8 10 Ne5 with an attack against f7 which cannot be parried.

A premature capture which facilitates White's development. Correct is 10... Qc7.

Due to the impressive mobilization of White's forces, Black is already skating on very thin ice. Thus, Short could now have tried 15 Nxe6 fxe6 16 Bxe6+ Kh8 17 Ng6+ Kh7 18 Nxe7 Qxe7 19 Bf5+ when Black is lost. Fortunately for Adams, though, Black has the superior 16... Kh7 at his disposal, when White has no clear continuation of his attack.

Of course, 16... fxe6 would fail miserably to 17 Bxe6+ winning Black's Queen.

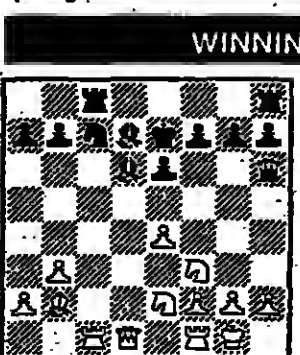
17 Nxe7+ Rxe7 18 Nf5 Rf7

Not 19... exd5 19 Qxe7 with decisive gain of material.

White has sacrificed a piece not only to shatter the Black King's wing, but also to expose the Black Knight which has been lured to e4. White's next

move, pinning the Black Knight on f6, makes both these motifs clear.

Black has been unable to save his extra piece, indeed, he has now lost a pawn and his King's fortifications appear smashed. Most onlookers believed that Black was lost, but now the talented teenager from Truro whips up a ferocious counterattack in the open 'g' file.



In the diagram, White can win swiftly. What is White's winning move?

23 Bxf6 Rxf6 24 Qd3 Nf5 25 Rf3 Qe4 26 Rf3 Qe4

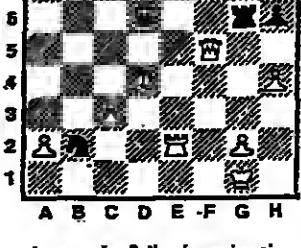
In order to beat off Black's pressure, White has been obliged to jettison his f4 pawn.

After the game Short pointed out that his sacrifice of the Rook on move 30 was the only way to keep his chances alive.

A wonderfully imaginative conception. White now threatens 34 h5 winning the pinned rook on g6, as well as 34 Rxb2. Meanwhile, Black cannot play 33... Rxe2 on account of 34 Qf7+. Faced with such a coup Adams does well not to suffer instant nervous collapse.

If now 33 Rxe7+ Qxe7 34 h5 then Black wins with 34... Qe1+ 35 Kh2 Qx3+ and ... Qxg2 mate. Short's next move is a brilliant resource which not only deflects Black's initiative, but also permits White's own offensive to flare up once again.

33 Rxf7



A wonderful imaginative conception. White now threatens 34 h5 winning the pinned rook on g6, as well as 34 Rxb2. Meanwhile, Black cannot play 33... Rxe2 on account of 34 Qf7+. Faced with such a coup Adams does well not to suffer instant nervous collapse.

Black has to prevent 35 Qb8 mate

35 Rxb2 Rf6 36 Qb8 37 h5

A better chance might have been 38 Re2.

Sensibly seizing the important open file.

Black should, perhaps, have tried 45... Qe2.

Realistically, Black has no way of exploiting his advantage of Rook against Bishop given White's towering compensation in the form of the passed pawn on g7. Adams, therefore, liquidates to a drawn Queen and Pawn endgame.

Draw agreed. An absolutely splendid example of mental cut and thrust, which does honour to both sides.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

Cool nerves, deep pockets

What do you need to win at high stake rubber bridge? Obviously, you must be a good, practical player. But you will also require a deep pocket to withstand the inevitable bad run. And perhaps most important of all, you must have nerves of steel.

Let me describe an afternoon session which one of the better players in the big game recently experienced.

On the second hand of the first Chicago, with only his opponents vulnerable, our hero dealt and opened three hearts. The opposition competed with more enterprise than discretion, and his partner doubled the eventual contract of five diamonds. Declarer, rattled by the turn of events, revoked, effectively trumping his own Ace. When the smoke cleared, that was 2,000 to the good guys.

Unhappily, this was followed almost immediately by

an instructive misunderstanding. As South, you deal and pass. The bidding unfolds like this:

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EASTER MONDAY 27th MARCH 7.30

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Soprano: ROSEMARY ASHBE Basses: PETER MORGENTHAU
Emerges from ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Sings Songs of "Jesus Christ Superstar" plus tunes from "Chances
Liner," "We and My Girl," "Kiss," "The King and I," "Les
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at the **BARBICAN 01-638 8891**

WEDNESDAY NEXT 29th MARCH 7.45
SVIATOSLAV RICHTER
Please Note Change of Programme
MOZART - CHOPIN
MOZART: Sonata in E flat, K.262, Sonata in C K.545,
Sonata in G minor, K.476
CHOPIN: Etudes Op. 10 (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12),
Etudes Op. 25 (Nos. 5, 6, 8, 11)
Some tickets still available

SATURDAY NEXT 1st APRIL 7.45
MOZART-BACH-VIVALDI
CITY OF LONDON SYMPHONY Conducted ROBERT DUNCAN
Guest Soloist: Mrs. NICHOLAS WARD
Overture, Magic Flute MOZART
Suite No. 3 in G minor, BWV 1066, J.S. BACH
Horn Concerto No. 4, K.495, W.A. MOZART
THE FOUR SEASONS VIVALDI
(£3.50, £5.50, £8.50, £11, £13.50, £15.50)
WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 7.45

POPULAR CLASSICS
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Cond. SANDY COLEMAN. Piano: PHILIP MARTIN.

Dr. William T. ROSSINI, Philadelphia, SPELUNKY, as a Theater of
Famous RACAPANDINO, Dr. Light Comedy, Slapstick, Read Fine
FALLA, having been the first to bring TOGAHOVSKY, the
Crown of a FALGAS, Adapted from Spontaneous KACHATUNIAN,
MILTON (WITH CANNON & HORNER) TOGAHOVSKY
(7:30, 9:30, 11:30, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15)

QUINCY'S TALK 1166/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/

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IVANOV
 by Chekhov
 APR. 6 - 22 (Apr. 10 7:00)
 in rehearsal
**MUCH ADO
 ABOUT NOTHING**
 by Shakespeare

CINEMAS
 GARDEN PLAZA opp. Cambridge
 10:45 6:05 8:45
TALAMAS BOMBAY (18) Prog.
 1:35 3:55 6:20 8:45
CHELSEA CINEMA 1000 8th Ave.
 5:15 5:35 7:45 10:15
THE 400 BLOWS (18) Prog.
 1:35 3:55 6:20 8:45

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RECORDS

Calculated to please

Like George Michael, Michael Jackson and others who have approached Eighties-style rock stardom as a well-established profession, no one could accuse Madonna of inattention to the quality of her work. Like a Prayer is a carefully written and meticulously produced collection of modern pop songs that ache a little, bounce a lot, and promise nothing more than they can ultimately deliver.

But as with the work of her peers, it is difficult to judge how much of her music is the product of real feeling, and how much of it is a coolly calculated exercise in line with the latest marketing strategies. The mildly titillating mixture of religious and sexual imagery that has already propelled the title track to No 1 is a good case in point.

The best art reflects life, but there is an unhealthy nearness about the way in which the melodrama of the real-life break-up of Madonna's marriage to Sean Penn provides romantic lyrical fodder for the song "Till Death Do Us Part", which is delivered in a robotic semi-rap style reminiscent of Blondie's "Rapture".

Elsewhere the delights are mixed. The all-purpose funk/

ROCK

Madonna Like a Prayer (Sire 925 844-277)
S'Express Original Soundtrack (Rhythm King LEFT LPS)

pop of "Express Yourself" is one of those superficial neo-soul singalongs with roots in Motown and feet of clay, while "Cherish" is bobbysox pop that will doubtless give the younger generation of Kytiles a run for their money.

But there is distinct evidence of a gathering maturity in material like "Love Song", a lascivious slow funk workout co-written with Prince, and "Keep It Together", a hot-blooded up-tempo dance track where she explores her thoughts about family ties with some acuity.

I am also particularly taken by the album's epilogue, a throwaway collage of atmospherics called "Act of Contrition" where a wildly distorted taped-in-reverse guitar provides the backdrop to Madonna's voice, solemnly reciting a prayer then suddenly bawling out a room receptionist about a hotel reservation. It all sounds pretty bizarre and marvelously subversive.

The package comes com-

plete with a fulsome photographic study of Madonna's midriff spilling out of a pair of unbuttoned jeans on the cover, and inside, an Aids fact sheet with a slogan which makes the undeniable point that "Aids Is No Party".

Life, on the other hand, has been one long party for the DJ producer Mark Moore since his first ever composition, "Theme From S'Express", went to No 1 last year, to be quickly followed by the Top Ten hits "Superfly Guy" and "Hey Music Lover". All three tracks are included on the debut S'Express album Original Soundtrack.

The house music style of blending sampled extracts with a monotonous disco beat has turned out to be one American invention which British acts have been able to adapt to their own purposes. It just seems a pity that so much inventiveness and technical expertise should be bent in the service of creating mindlessly repetitive dancefloor mantras.



David Sinclair Mixed delights in the package: Madonna keeps her promises

Sweet and high

CLASSICAL

Schubert-Prokofiev: "Arpeggione" Sonata/Sonata Op 118 Harony/Dusseck (RCA RD 87845)
Brahms: Cello Sonatas in E-minor and F-major
Rose/Pommier (Virgin Classics VCT 50750-2)
Brahms: The Two Cello Sonatas Tortelier/De la Pau (EMI CDM 7 63021 2)
Rachmaninov/Chopin: Cello Sonatas Tortelier/Ciccolini (EMI CDM 7 63851 2)

Ofra Harony, the 24-year-old Canada-based Israeli cellist, makes only infrequent visits to Britain, but her voice is making its impression on the musical consciousness through her recordings. The latest is a winsome performance of Schubert's "Arpeggione" Sonata. It betrays her time spent studying with both Fournier and du Pré, but the big tone, with its light weightless movement, is distinctive in its own right.

She plays in long, deep breaths, but with the lightest pressure on the fingerboard and only sparing vibrato: the result is a sweet high register and springing leaps, often mischievously tinted by a hint of portamento. This gives a sophisticated audacity to the episodes of the final rondo which is entirely characteristic.

There is a similar nonchalance behind the deep-throated, reverberant opening of her Prokofiev sonata. Both Harony and her sensitive pianist, Michael Dussek, bring out the wide-eyed child in the composer, relishing the tactile qualities of pizzicato, staccato and barking arco in the slow movement. At its heart, her starry-eyed lyricism is worthy of Prokofiev's own *Romeo and Juliet*.

At the other end of the scale are the last recordings of Leonard Rose, his big-boned,

robust Brahms recordings of 1982 now re-issued. Rose is in many ways the Brahms player: his large-toned, firmly controlled play with its incisive rhythmic sequences is a match for the near-orchestral proportions of the piano part.

Rose moves ahead with teeth-gritting determination where many players would indulge in a rest on the way. His balance of impetus and expansiveness in the first movement of the E-minor Sonata captures exactly the spirit of its "Allegro non troppo". I find his second movement a little mannered, with its exaggerated rubato and leaning first beats forcing the minuet into unnecessarily coy quotation marks.

The F-major piece is almost on the scale of a concerto. Jean-Bernard Pommier quiets the merely percussive in the piano, and provides biting

cutries and transcendent chords as each player homes his wits.

The same two sonatas were tackled by Paul Tortelier in a 1977 performance now re-issued, in digitally remastered form and at mid price, for his 75th birthday celebrations. The difference in approach is remarkable: Tortelier's opening of the E-minor Sonata is like a great purring, its continuation less aggressive than Rose's.

One is more conscious of exploration, and less of the upbow, and the second movement is almost *fuerz anty* in its evenness and simplicity. By contrast, the finale bounces with life.

Among the large celebratory Tortelier batch is the 1968 recording of the Rachmaninov and Chopin sonatas. The former captures the playing of a younger, more highly-strung Tortelier, who hears the Sonata as an intimate salon piece, at times willing to provide a sighing accompaniment for the piano.

This, indeed, is one of the disc's great delights. Ciccolini, not surprisingly, comes into his own in the Chopin Sonata. Tortelier does not press his case for supremacy any further than discretion dictates: their *pas de deux* makes a most persuasive reading of this under-estimated work.

Hilary Finch

Steam-driven rhythms

JAZZ

Gerry Mulligan The Age of Steam (ARM CDA 0804)
Wes Montgomery Down Here on the Ground (CDA 0802)
George Benson Shape of Things to Come (CDA 0803)

Gerry Mulligan has spent most of the 1980s leading one of the most creative big bands currently active in jazz, but if you want to examine its qualities in the comfort of your home, you will be hard put to find recorded evidence of its existence.

About 10 years ago, there was a fairly representative album called *Walk on the Water*, then came *Little Big Horn*, on which Mulligan mysteriously chose to recreate a big-band feeling through the use of overdubbing. Preceding both, though, all the way back in 1972, was *The Age of Steam*, eight pieces arranged for a prototype of the present band, and now reissued in A & M's new series of mid-price compact discs.

The title is significant: Mulligan is a steam-railway nut, and one of the pieces here, "K-4 Pacific", is dedicated to the locomotives which pulled the long-distance express trains through the Ohio landscape of his childhood. Still in the band's repertoire, it has a lovely loose-limbed momentum that sets up solos from soprano saxophonist Tom Scott and pianist Roger Kellaway.

Harry Edison (trumpet), Bud Shank (alto saxophone), Bob Brookmeyer (trombone) and Howard Roberts (guitar) are among the soloists heard elsewhere in the album, which

ought to be recommendation enough. There is, of course, an ample helping of Mulligan himself, both on baritone saxophone and piano.

The late Wes Montgomery's short series of mid-Sixties A & M albums, in which the producer Creed Taylor and the arranger Don Sebesky supported his warm guitar tone and trademark octave runs with gentle strings on tunes mostly borrowed from the pop charts of the day, are universally held by professional critics to represent a lamentable debasement of the art of perhaps the only jazz guitarist able to match the stature of Django Reinhardt.

Down Here on the Ground is typical; yet while no one could claim that it matches the intensity and creativity of his earlier small-group sessions, it makes a pleasant background noise and will no doubt continue to give many people some harmless pleasure. It also made Montgomery the good living which jazz musicians of his talent are too often denied.

George Benson, almost as gifted a guitarist, saw what had happened to Montgomery and determined to get some of the rewards for himself. On *Shape of Things to Come*, Sebesky's arrangements of tunes such as "Last Train to Clarksville" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo" will infuriate purists, despite the presence of such heavyweights as the pianist Herbie Hancock and the bassist Ron Carter, both moonlighting from their somewhat more demanding regular gig with Miles Davis.

Richard Williams

Until April 1st, Woolworths are selling the Top 60 CDs for £9.99* (How's that for High Street Cred?)

TOP 60 CD CHART

1 LIKE A PRAYER Madonna	21 PREMIERE COLLECTION Andrew Lloyd Webber	41 WATERMARK Enya
2 NOW IN Various	22 MYSTERY Def Leppard	42 SPIKE Elton John
3 A NEW FLAME Simply Red	23 REMOTE Rue And Cry	43 CROSS Sam Wilder
4 ANYTHING FOR YOU Gloria Estefan	24 THE LEGENDARY BOY ORBISON Roy Orbison	44 KICK Frank
5 ANCIENT HEART Tajana Tjarkom	25 ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE Dionne Summer	45 DIRTY DANCING Various
6 CHECK TO CHECK Various	26 THE BIG AREA Then Jerico	46 GREATEST LOVER Various
7 DON'T BE CRUEL Bobby Brown	27 HOLD ME IN YOUR ARMS Rick Astley	47 COCKTAIL Christina Soudbrook
8 THE RAW AND THE COOKED Fine Young Cannibals	28 KYLE - THE ALBUM Kyle Minogue	48 ROADFORD Roadford
9 THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION Bacharach	29 HP HOUSE 80 Various	49 PRIVATE COLLECTION Cher
10 STOP Semi Brown	30 101 LIVE Beyonce Mode	50 THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION Paul Young
11 SINGLES ADVENTURES Salsoul	31 THE AWARDS ALBUM Various	51 HEART OF THE MATTER Various
12 AND ALL BECAUSE THE LADY Loves Various	32 THE INNOCENTS Erasure	52 UNUSUAL SUSPECTS The Smiths
13 UNFORGETTABLE Various	33 MARQUEE COLLECTION Various	53 JUMP Various
14 BAD Michael Jackson	34 DEEP HEAT Various	54 PARTY Various
15 MUSTEL Original Soundtrack	35 FLYING COLOURS Chris De Burgh	55 WHISKY Various
16 MYSTERY ONE Boy George	36 GREATEST HITS Black Sabbath	56 SAKKOWN Various
17 WANTED Various	37 NEW LIGHT THROUGH OLD WINDOWS - Chris Rea	57 JUMP Various
18 SWEETHEARTS Various	38 TRACY CHAPMAN Tracy Chapman	58 FANTASIES Various
19 GOLDEN EYE Various	39 PARADOTTIVE Paradottive	59 TRAVELING WILBERYS Various
20 ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK Various	40 MONEY FOR NOTHING Dire Straits	60 BATTLE AND FURY Various

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WOOLWORTHS

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SATURDAY

BBC 1

- 7.30** *Racoon* in *A Night to Remember* (r).
- 7.55** *Kiss My Face* in *Home Sweet Home* and *Pooped Pop* (r).
- 8.30** *Saturday Starts Here* with *Ovide*. Animated adventures of a duckbilled platypus (r).
- 8.35** *Ronald's Rat Race*. Taking part this week are a team representing Highfields Junior School near Barnsley - Wayne Bates, Scott Atkinson and Cassandra Hargreaves - and one representing Fulbrook Middle School, Woburn Sands - Michael Steer, Jane Hargreaves and Sarah Doyle.
- 9.00** *Going Live!* with Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield. The guests include Neighbours star Elaine Smith, pop group T'Pau and the six heat winners in the final of the Young Entertainer of the Year competition.
- 12.00** *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*. The sixth of seven films presented by Peter Binkworth (r). **12.12** *Weather*.
- 12.15** *Grandstand* introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up includes (subject to alteration): **12.20**, **1.10**, **1.40** and **2.10** Rowing: the build-up to and live coverage of the Boat Race. The commentators are Tony Carpenter and Chris Baller; **12.40** and **2.10** Rugby League: a preview and live coverage of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup semi-final between Warrington and Wigan. Commentary by Ray French and Alex Murphy; **12.50** News; **4.45** Final score.
- 5.05** News with Maura Stuart. **5.15** Regional news and sport.
- 5.20** *The Flying Doctors*. Chris and Geoff help Father Jacko with a man he finds walking along an otherwise deserted road claiming he has conversations with God. They discover he is a paranoid schizophrenic and manages to stabilize his condition - but not enough to satisfy the people of Coopers Crossing who regard him as a dangerous madman. Starring Robert Grubb and Liz Burch. (Coefax).
- 6.05** *Jim'll Fix It*. Among those for whom Jimmy Savile fixes it are 10-year-old identical twins who learn what it is like to be different after a visit to the BBC make-up department; and two other youngsters to discover it is possible to find a needle in a haystack. (Coefax).
- 6.40** *Little and Large*. Syd and Eddie's guests include Mike Paris, Bamboozle, Marie Harper, Albert Moses and the Naushad Sheikh Band. (Coefax).
- 7.15** *Bob Says...*. Opportunity Knocks. Talent contest, introduced by Bob Monkhouse, in which the viewers pick the winner. Tonight's hopefuls are Rachel Morris, a 14-year-old cornet soloist; comedy impressionist Terry Devine; comedian Terry St John; and singing/dancing double act Live Live.
- 8.05** *Columbo*. The dishevelled detective investigates the murder of a playboy who wanted to sell the family vineyard to help finance his latest marriage. Starring Peter Falk, Donald Pleasence and Julie Harris.
- 9.35** News and sport. With Martyn Lewis. **Weather**.
- 9.50** *Corroct Confidential*. The final programme of the series in which Jasper Corroct takes a very look at life in general.
- 10.25** *Film: Honey Tongue* (1981) starring Beau Bridges, Beverly D'Angelo and William Devane. Comedy about a small Florida town determined to become a name on the tourist map despite not having an exit road from the freeway. The film also examines the comical lives of tourists from all over the United States converging on the unsuspecting town. Directed by John Schlesinger. (Coefax).
- 12.10am** *The Gospel According to St. Matthew* (r).
- 12.20** *Film: The Jericho Mile* (1979) starring Peter Strauss and Brian Dennehy. A made-for-television drama about Larry Murphy, a prisoner in Folsom Prison, California, serving a life sentence, who finds relaxation in running round the prison yard. An interested warder times him and offers him the chance to run outside the walls - an offer accepted that leads to a chance of competing in the Olympics. Directed by Michael Mann.
- 1.55** *Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with Saturday Sport presented by Geoff Clark; **7.30** *Wideawake* for the young, with Timmy Mallett, Michaela Strachan and Tommy Boyd.
- 9.25** *Motorround* includes an interview with Kylie Minogue; music from Brother Beyond; and Mark Shaw of Then Jericho talking about the group's latest video.
- 11.30** *The Patridge Family*. Music and domestic comedy series **12.00** *The Chart Show*.
- 1.00** News with Fiona Armstrong. **1.05** *LWT News* and weather followed by *Saint & Greaves*. Ian and Jimmy review the week's football news and look forward to the weekend's programme. **1.40** Sportsrounders. Sports quiz presented by Dickie Davies.
- 2.10** *Film: The Robe* (1953) starring Richard Burton, Jean Simmons and Victor Mature. Drama about a Roman soldier who outbids Caligula for a Greek slave and is transferred to Jerusalem as a punishment. He is put in charge of the Crucifixion and wins Christ's robe in a game of dice which he then gives his slave. Directed by Henry Koster.
- 4.45** Results Service with Eileen Welsby.
- 5.00** News and weather. **5.05** *LWT News* and weather.



Special Service: Lewis Collins infiltrates the People's Lobby (ITV, 9.15pm)

- 5.15** *The Incredible Hulk*. Dr Banner's efforts to free two orphans from the influence of a Fagin-type character are hampered by a man on the trail of the Hulk (r).
- 6.15** *Trick or Treat*. Alternative game show presented by Mike Smith and the Joan Collins Fan Club.
- 6.45** *You Bet!* Challenging game show introduced by Bruce Forsyth. His guests are Jayne Irving, Nicholas Parsons and comedy impressionist Mark Walker.
- 7.45** *Murder, She Wrote: A Very Good Year for Murder*. Attending the 75th birthday celebrations of a wealthy wine merchant, Jessica's sleuthing talents are put to the test when the man's grandchild is injured in a fall down the stairs. A tamper with star leads Jessica to suspect that the grandfather was the intended victim. Starring Angela Lansbury and Eli Wallach. (Coefax).
- 8.45** News and sport followed by weather. **9.00** *LWT Weather*.
- 9.05** Searchline Special presented by Cilla Black.
- 9.15** *Film: Who Dares Wins* (1982) starring Lewis Collins, Judy Davis, Richard Widmark and Edward Woodward. Drama about an SAS operative who is ordered to infiltrate a radical anti-nuclear group thought to be responsible for the death of an undercover agent during a GND march. Directed by Ian Sharp.
- 11.30** *The Highwayman*. The special agent rescues his old instructor who has been wrongly jailed for theft.
- 12.30am** *Soap*. Mediacom comedy concerning the Tate and Campbell families. Tonight's episode's attitude on the first day of her trial causes chaos in the courtroom. Starring Katharine Helmond (r). Followed by News headlines.
- 1.00** *Night Network*. The guests include steel drum maker and musician, Tony Charles; Sheena Easton, who is interviewed by Paul Thompson; and Richard Coles with reviews of the latest big screen releases.
- 4.00** *The Hit Man* and *Her*. Disco music and news from Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan.
- 5.00** *ITV Morning News* with Sue Osman. Ends at 6.00.

BBC 2

- 9.00** *Coefax*.
- 12.05** *Film: The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965) starring Max Von Sydow, Dorothy McGuire and Charlton Heston. The life of Jesus Christ that was four years in the making. Directed by George C. Scott.
- 3.15** *Network East*. Shantrez Pakravan chairs a discussion on the Salman Rushdie affair between Fundamentalist Dr Kalim Siddiqui, director of the Muslim Institute in London, and Verna, the artistic director of Tara Arts Group; Shirley Daniels, headmistress of a largely Asian school in Southall; and Yasmin Ali, a lecturer at Lancaster Polytechnic.
- 3.55** *The Half-Crown Chase*. A documentary following the fortunes of three of the 95 solo competitors in last year's Carlsberg Transatlantic race from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island (first shown on BBC South West).
- 4.25** *Film: Baron Munchausen* (1983) starring Hans Albers. The original colour version of Raspe's adventures of the 18th-century fantasist, played by George Sanders, propaganda minister Goebbels as a Nazi prestige film to rival the United States' *Gone With the Wind*. Directed by Josef von Baky. In German with English subtitles.
- 6.15** *The Triumph of the West*. Part 10 of John Roberts's 13-programme view of world history. How India achieved independence (r).
- 7.05** *NewsView* with Maura Stuart and Lisa Davidson. **Weather**.
- 7.50** *Rhythms of the World*. The Sonopulse Project's N'Dour in concert at the 1988 Montreal Jazz Festival and interviewed at Peter Gabriel's recording studio.
- 8.40** *The Sleep*. A play about a woman who slips to take her to her high school reunion. When he turns up to collect her in his rented, ill-fitting dress suit her mother recognises him and bursts into tears. Last in the series.
- 9.05** *Saturday Night Club*.
- 9.50** *The Cry of Purgatory*. Jonathan Harvey's play about evoking the mood the day after the death of Christ. With the choir of King's College, Cambridge.
- 10.10** *The Film Club*. Louis Malle introduces two films about the American way of life beginning with *Alamo Bay* (1985) starring Amy Madigan, Ho Nguyen and Ed Harris. The story of a Vietnam refugee who settles in a Texas town where resentment against the immigrants is high.
- 11.50** *God's Country* (1985). A portrait of a small farming community in Minnesota. About 90 per cent of the 5,000 population are of German descent. Ends at 1.25am.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30** *Some Difference* (r). **10.00** *What If's Worth It*.
- 10.30** *Film: Seven Days to Noon* (1950) b/w starring Barry Jones. Thriller about a race against time to locate a dangerous nuclear scientist who threatens to destroy London. Directed by John Boulting.
- 12.15** *Film: The Last Instinct* (1945) b/w starring Cameron Mitchell. Drama about a petty criminal who, on reading a magazine account of the exploits of a 1920s racketeer, decides to emulate his hero. Directed by Walter Hart.
- 12.40** *Dance With Me*. Episode nine of the 55-part Brazilian drama *Filme Lila with Father* (1949) starring William Powell. A comedy about family life in New York during the 1980s. Directed by Michael Curtiz.
- 3.20** *News*. **4.00** *News*. **4.30** *News*. **4.45** *News*.
- 5.05** *Brookside* (r). (Coefax).
- 6.00** *The Prodigious Hickety*. The second and final part of the mini-series set in an American boys' school in 1905, based on Owen Johnson's *The Lawrenceville Stories*. Followed by *Weather*.
- 7.00** *The World This Week* looks forward to tomorrow's Soviet elections; examines the prospects of peace between Israel and the Palestinians; and investigates human rights in China, including interviews with Chinese dissident and an African student living in China.
- 8.00** *Police Passage*. A documentary about left machine and Mike Bowdell and their plan to sail through the Northwest Passage in an 18ft fibreglass catamaran using only sail and muscle power. (Coefax).
- 9.00** *The Official Version* (1985) starring Hector Alterio and Norma Aleandro. A drama examining the recent gender carried out in Argentina during the 1970s. An Argentine film with English subtitles directed by Luis Puenzo.
- 11.10** *Sounds of Surprise*. Royal Philharmonic's Bob Wilber Big Band with a concert of Duke Ellington music, performed at London's Royal Festival Hall earlier this year.
- 12.10** *Official Version* (1985) starring Hector Alterio and Norma Aleandro. A drama examining the recent gender carried out in Argentina during the 1970s. An Argentine film with English subtitles directed by Luis Puenzo.

VARIATIONS

- BBC1** WALES: 5.15pm John Account 5.45-6.15. **5.15** *News*. **5.45** *News*. **6.15** *News*. **6.45** *News*. **7.15** *News*. **7.45** *News*. **8.15** *News*. **8.45** *News*. **9.15** *News*. **9.45** *News*. **10.15** *News*. **10.45** *News*. **11.15** *News*. **11.45** *News*. **12.15** *News*. **12.45** *News*. **1.15** *News*. **1.45** *News*. **2.15** *News*. **2.45** *News*. **3.15** *News*. **3.45** *News*. **4.15** *News*. **4.45** *News*. **5.15** *News*. **5.45** *News*. **6.15** *News*. **6.45** *News*. **7.15** *News*. **7.45** *News*. **8.15** *News*. **8.45** *News*. **9.15** *News*. **9.45** *News*. **10.15** *News*. **10.45** *News*. **11.15** *News*. **11.45** *News*. **12.15** *News*. **12.45** *News*. **1.15** *News*. **1.45** *News*. **2.15** *News*. **2.45** *News*. **3.15** *News*. **3.45** *News*. **4.15** *News*. **4.45** *News*. **5.15** *News*. **5.45** *News*. **6.15** *News*. **6.45** *News*. **7.15** *News*. **7.45** *News*. **8.15** *News*. 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TV AND RADIO

SUNDAY

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Greta Carslaw

BBC 1

- 7.30 The Sleeping Princess.** An animated story.
- 7.40 The Phantom Treehouse.** Animated fantasy film about a boy and his dog who discover a strange land when looking for their friend Lucy.
- 8.55 Playbus** with Ethne Hannigan and Simon Davies (r). 9.15 The Fox and the Hare 9.25 Umbrella. Multi-faith series for the young presented by Mark Chatterton. Christians in Southwell, Manchester and Skelmersdale use symbols to bring to life the events of 2,000 years ago.
- 9.45 Sunday Worship.** The Easter liturgy from Peterborough Cathedral.
- 11.00 Ubi et Orbi.** Live coverage of the Pope's traditional Easter blessing, described by Mgr Vincent Nichols.
- 11.30 The Gospel According to St. Matthew.** Peter Jackson with the last of seven films (r).
- 11.40 Take Nobody's Word For It.** The last in the science series presented by Carol Vorderman and Professor Ian Fells (r). 12.05 Sign Extra. A programme about the problems facing people who run fatigued, adapted for the hearing-impaired.
- 12.30 Country File.** Ian Braithwaite investigates the workings of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. John MacGregor, the minister for Agriculture, and the shadow spokesman, Dr David Clarke, review the ministry's history and contemplate its future. With comment from Sir Richard Body, MP, and agricultural journalist Barry Wilson. 12.55 Weather.
- 1.00 News** with Moira Stuart.
- 1.05 The Olympic Challenge.** Highlights from the Paralympic Games, introduced by Cliff Morgan (r).
- 2.00 EastEnders.** Omnibus edition (r).
- 3.00 Film: Oliver!** (1968) starring Ron Moody, Oliver Reed and Harry Secombe. Sir Oscar-winning musical version of Charles Dickens's novel Oliver Twist which tells the tale of a young orphan boy who falls into bad company before being rescued by his relatives. Directed by Carol Reed. (CeeFax)
- 5.20 The Clothes Show** reports from Northern Ireland on farm and the designers who use linen for their high fashion garments.
- 5.45 The Animals Roadshow.** In this first of a new series Desmond Morris meets actress Susanah Hoy with her three dogs and three cats; and Sarah Kennedy is in Erewod for the show's only Working-Dog Convention. (CeeFax)
- 6.20 News** with Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 6.35 Songs of Praise** from Westminster Cathedral. (CeeFax)
- 7.15 Laura and Disorder.** The final programme of the comedy series starring Wendy Craig as a divorced middle-aged woman who seems to be forever surrounded in chaos. Tonight the intrepid Laura invests in a metal detector and uncovers more trouble than treasure. (CeeFax)
- 7.45 Mastermind** introduced by Magnus Magnusson from Cheltenham Ladies' College. The specialist subjects are: communism in Eastern Europe since 1935; Dorothy Wordsworth; Isambard Kingdom Brunel; and Cheltenham in Roman times.
- 8.10 Film: Witness for the Prosecution** (1982) starring Ralph Richardson, Deborah Kerr and David Riggs. A made-for-television version of Agatha Christie's courtroom drama about a man accused of murder who seems condemned by his wife's evidence. Directed by Alan Gibson. (CeeFax)
- 9.30 News** with Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 10.05 Heart of the Matter: Is Life Worth Living?** That Depends on the Story of artist John Baskany whose liver disease forced him to confront the possibility of an early death.
- 10.40 Kilroy in the Holy Land.** Highlights from the first of the Middle East discussion programmes presented by Robert Kilroy-Gil.
- 11.20 Handmade.** Home crafts programme presented by Sue Robinson. Last in the series (r).
- 11.30 The Gospel According to St. Matthew** (r).
- 12.00 Network East.** A repeat of yesterday's programme on the Balkan Russian affair.
- 12.40am Weather.**

TV/LONDON

- 8.00 TV-am** begins with children's programmes presented by David Yates and George Spenswick.
- 8.00 Anna Diamond on Sunday.** Current affairs and a review of the day's national newspapers.
- 9.25 Motormouth on Sunday.** presented by Julian Ballantyne and Caroline Hanson, includes Fraggles Rock, starring Simon O'Brien.
- 10.45 Link.** The story of Sue Read, a diabetic who, after the death of her father when she was aged 12, became disturbed and was sent to a mental institution for a two week period which was extended to one of five and a half years.
- 11.00 Morning Worship** from the Roman Catholic Cathedral Church of Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel, Sussex.
- 12.00 Enclosure** with Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, who faces up to his own death by remembering the first Easter, which, he says, proves that death cannot be the end.
- 12.30 A Clockwork Easter.** A cartoon story for children (r). 12.50 LWT News and weather.
- 1.00 News** with Fiona Armstrong. Weather.
- 1.10 The Light of the World.** John Halas tells the story of how Christianity began using both traditional art and computer-generated images. The words are spoken by Robin Ellis and Maurice Denham and the music written by Richard Arnold and Dave Hewson.
- 1.40 The Light of the World.** Double bill 2.00 Coronation Street. Omnibus edition (r).
- 3.00 The Match.** Live coverage of the game at White Hart Lane between Spurs and Liverpool introduced by Elton Walsby with commentary by Alan Parry.
- 5.05 Butaye.** Darts and general knowledge quiz game presented by Jim Bowles.
- 5.35 Sunday Sunday.** Gloria Hunniford's guests are American raconteur Jackie Mason and Alan Bates and Felicity Kendal will be seen soon in The West End playing in Chekov's *Ivanov*.
- 6.30 News** and weather 6.35 LWT News and weather.
- 6.40 Higher.** Sir Harry Secombe visits the Vale of Glamorgan. Among the people he meets is the former Welsh rugby lion international J. P. Williams.
- 7.15 Searchline Special.** Cilla Black continues her weekend campaign to bring together long-lost friends and relatives.
- 8.00 Forever Green.** John Alderton and Pauline Collins star in the environmental drama series as a couple who move to the country from the city for the sake of their child's health. This week the family, apart from young Freddy, is struck down with ulcers and headaches. Lady Patricia offers a sinister reason for their discomfort. (CeeFax)
- 9.00 An Audience With Victoria Wood.** A repeat of the BAFTA award winning best light entertainment programme in which Victoria Wood regales her invited audience with witty monologues and sometimes sad songs.
- 10.00 Searchline Special Update** with Cilla Black.
- 10.15 Floyed** by Mr. Keith Floyed presents another selection of television programme oddities from around the world.
- 10.45 News** and weather 10.55 LWT News and weather.
- 11.00 Hale & Pace.** Comedy sketches starring Gerald Hale and Norman Pace (r).
- 11.30 Film: Moment by Moment** (1978) starring John Gielgud and John Travolta. A frustrated housewife, aware of her husband's affair with a younger woman, is reluctant to re-evaluate even when pursued by a persistent admirer. Directed by Jane Wagner.
- 1.30 The Chart Show** (r). Followed by News headlines.
- 2.30 The Other Side of Midnight.** With Robert Kilroy-Gil, Read and an item on mods and rockers.
- 3.00 Pick of the Week.** Highlights of programmes from the regions.
- 3.30 American Documentary.** The story of the artist John Baskany whose liver disease forced him to confront the possibility of an early death.
- 4.30 Hillary's Adventures.** Glacier peaks and float planes.
- 5.00 ITN Morning News.** Ends at 6.00.

BBC 2

- 8.00 CeeFax.**
- 8.45 Film: Jungle Book** (1942) starring Sabu and Joseph Calleia. Based on Rudyard Kipling's story of a young boy growing up in the jungle who is adopted by wolves. Directed by Zoltan Korda.
- 11.30 Film: Captain Horatio Hornblower** (1951) starring Gregory Peck and Virginia Mayo. Adventure story based on three of C. S. Forester's novels about the British naval hero of the Napoleonic wars. Directed by Raoul Walsh.
- 1.20 40 Minutes: Wedding at Eastington** (r). (CeeFax)
- 2.00 The Kirov Ballet in London.** A revised repeat of last summer's live transmission of the Kirov Ballet's Gale Performance from London's Business Design Centre, the Kirov's first visit to London for 18 years. With the Wran Orchestra conducted by Viktor Fedotov. The programme also includes interviews with Natalia Makarova and the Kirov's artistic director Oleg Vinogradov.
- 4.20 Rugby Special** introduced by Chris Rea. Highlights from yesterday's Pilkington Cup semifinals between Gloucester and Bath; and Harlequins v Leicester.
- 5.20 Film: Tess** (1979). (CeeFax) (see Choice)
- 6.05 Solti Conducts Bartok.** In this first of two programmes Sir Georg Solti conducts the London Philharmonic in a performance of his orchestral concertos for orchestra.
- 9.10 Brazilian Grand Prix.** Highlights of today's race in Rio de Janeiro, the first in the world championship. The commentators are John Murray Walker and James Hunt.
- 9.45 The Cry of Joy.** Jewish composer Robert Saxon celebrates the happiest day in the Christian calendar with a well scored for 30 instruments played by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lionel Friend.
- 10.05 The Great Gatsby** (1974) starring Robert Redford and Mia Farrow. Drama, based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel set in 1930s Long Island about a social climber and his affair with a selfish married woman. Directed by Jack Clayton.
- 11.50 Sinfonia.** The London Sinfonietta, conducted by David Atherton, perform Olivier Messiaen's *Colours of the Cathedral* (r).
- 12.35am Film: Forbidden** (1932, b/w) starring Barbara Stanwyck as a staid librarian who has an affair with a married politician. Directed by Frank Capra. Ends at 2.10.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 Movie Mahal.** Programme five of the 17-part story of the Indian cinema industry.
- 10.00 The World This Week.** A repeat of yesterday's international affairs programme 11.00 Pops. Programme for children. The guest is Charlie Williams (r).
- 11.30 Film: Warzel Gunsmoke Down Under.** Jon Pertwee stars as the animated scarecrow 12.00 The Wellies. Adventures of an Appalachian mountain family during the Depression years.
- 1.00 Lost in Space.** Episode 25 of the vintage science fiction series.
- 2.00 Aly Bain & Friends.** For this last programme of his series, the Shetland fiddler is joined by Scottish clarsach player Seamus Stevenson; Clive Gregson and Christine Collier from England; and from Cajun country, Louisiana Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band.
- 2.45 The Modern World: Ten Great Writers.** Part six - T. S. Eliot and his *The Waste Land* (r).
- 3.55 Big World Cafe.** Pop music series 4.55 News summary and weather.
- 5.00 Film: The Road to Hong Kong** (1962, b/w) starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. Comedy about two vaudevillians looking to make their fortunes in the Orient but managing only to attract the attentions of the local police and a mad scientist. Directed by Norman Panama.
- 6.45 The Cosby Show.**
- 7.15 Fragile Earth: Song of the Forest.** (Cricket) (see Choice)
- 8.15 Misses Galaxies.** A performance of Janacek's choral work by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Václav Neuzil. Joseph Knapik (tenor) and Sergei Knapik (bass) with Jan Hora on the organ.
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SATELLITE

- SKY CHANNEL**
- 5.30am Bailey's Bird 6.00 Hour of Power**
- 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 Shell International Motor Sports**
- 12.30 Mobil Motor Sports News**
- 1.00 Sunday Movie Matinee - The Little Ark**
- 3.00 Beyond 2000**
- 4.00 Pop Formulae 5.00 Joanie Loves Chachi**
- 5.30 Fight is Enough 6.30 Dolly 7.30 Family Ties**
- 8.30 My Fair Lady 11.40 Emeralds This Week**
- 12.30 Arts Channel Programmes** from Sky starting with *Madame Butterfly* 1.00 Lullaby Channel
- 3.30 Landscape Channel** Programmes from Sky.
- SKY NEWS**
- News on the hour**
- 6.00am Sky News Sunrise Edition**
- 6.30 The Best of the Frank Bough Interview 7.30 Roving Report**
- 8.30 Earthfile**
- 9.30 The Wall St. Journal 10.30 Earthfile**
- 11.30 Our World 12.30pm The Easter Editors 1.30 The Wall St. Journal**
- 2.30 Roving Report**
- 3.30 Our World 4.30 Earthfile**
- 5.30 Entertainment This Week 6.30 Fashion Television**
- The Easter Editors 9.30 Meet the Press**
- 10.30 Face the Nation 11.30 The Wall St. Journal 12.30am Entertainment This Week 2.30 Fashion Television**
- 3.30 Roving Report 4.30 Earthfile**
- 5.30 Meet The Press.**
- SKY MOVIES**
- 4.05pm Ladyhawke** (1985). Medieval fantasy about a pair of lovers who are alternately transformed into a wolf and hawk at different times of the day. With Matthew Broderick, Rutger Hauer and Michelle Pfeiffer. Directed by Richard Donner.
- 6.10 Project X** (1987). Matthew Broderick again, this time in a bizarre adventure about an airforce pilot working with chimpanzees as part of his top secret military training. By befriending one of them he learns the truth behind the dangerous Project X. Directed by Jonathan Kaplan.
- 10.00 Mother Love** (1982). Director of the film *Chaplin* Heston stars as a greedy landowner who will stop at nothing to get his hands on some mountain gold. Also with Nick Mancuso and Kim Basinger.
- 8.00 Summer Lovers** (1982). A Greek holiday romance in a montage of exotic locations. Directed by a French couple who met up with a French archaeologist. From the director of *Grease* and *The Blue Lagoon*. Randal Kleiser, starring Peter Gallagher, Daryl Hannah and Valeria Quaresima.
- EUROSPORT**
- 10.30am Mazda's Eye on Sport 11.30 The University Boat Race 12.30pm Ski Jumping 2.00 Rugby League**
- 4.00 Preview of Eurosport Programmes**
- 6.00 Eurosport What A Week! 7.00 Brazilian Grand Prix**
- 9.00 Ski Jumping 10.30 Super Magazine**
- 11.00 Rugby Union Midnight Close.**
- MTV**
- 6.00am MTV 10.00 VJ Marcel Vanthilt**
- 1.00pm MTV's European Top 20 2.00 VJ Ray Cokes**
- 3.30 Week in Concert 4.00 MTV**
- 5.00 VJ Ray Cokes 6.00 XPO 7.00 Kino 8.00 MTV Spotlight**
- 9.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 10.30 Night Videos.**
- PREMIERE**
- 3.00pm The Care Bears 2 - A New Generation**
- 4.15 The Karate Kid II 6.05 Sluggo's Grand (Ep. 7)**
- 6.30 Grandmids 8.00 Static 9.25 Hollywood Insider (Ep. 12)**
- 10.00 Blindside 11.40 John and the Missus**
- 1.20 Alfons 3.30 Close.**

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

Radio 4 today (12.15pm) presents an edition of Desert Island Discs about which more readers have written to me than any I have ever recommended. It is with Alfred Wainwright, celebrated rugged across Lakeland fells, that it is possibly the most diachronic castaway this programme has had to deal with. He prefers silence to music, which cannot have made it easy for the producer of a programme with a high musical content. All he wants on his desert island by way of



Famous foot-slogger: Alfred Wainwright (R4, 12.15pm)

a luxury is a fish and chip shop, and Sue Lawley tells him there won't be one. He rejects the offer of a favourite book in favour of a snap of his second wife and a photograph of the Blackburn Rovers team that won the F.A. Cup in 1928. His obsession with walking led to his first wife (and dog) walking out on him after 30 years. He has, he says, a single-track mind, and is totally unaware of how strangely that comment sits on a man who, in his guide books, has probably offered fellow foot-sloggers more alternative routes across the hills and dales of England, Scotland, and Wales than anyone in the history of the foot.

RADIO 1

VHF Stereo and MW

News on the half-hour from 6.30am-12.30pm, then at 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 and 12.00.

6.00 Synchronic Mark 9.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30 Pick of the Pops 1.00 Philip Schofield 4.00 News 5.00 Top of the Pops 5.30 Chartbusters 6.00 Top of the Pops 6.30 The Anne Nightingale Request Show 9.00 Soul Train 11.00-12.00 Scott on Sunday

RADIO 2

VHF Stereo (except 5.00pm-7.00pm) & MW

News on the hour (except 8.00pm) 7.00am-12.00pm

4.00am David Allen 6.00 Graham Knight 7.30 Good Morning

8.00am News 9.00am News 10.00am News 11.00am News 12.00am News

1.00am The Billy Cotton Band Show 2.00am Benny Green 3.00am Alan Dell 4.00am Hollywood Sound Stage 4.30am Sing Something Simple 5.00am Charlie Chester 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.

6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Jazz for the Asking 7.00 News 7.30 24 Hours 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News

1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather

7.00am Played by Peter Hurford on the organ of the Domkirche, St. Peter, Austria. The last of seven programmes. Prelude in E flat (BWV 552a); Chorale: Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu dir (BWV 688); Jesus Christus unser Heiland (BWV 688); Fugue in E flat (BWV 552b) (r)

7.30 News

7.35 Smetana Quartet (new series): Film of six programmes featuring the work of this quartet, founded 45 years ago and undertaking its first concert tour this year. Jiri Novak (violin), Lunomir Kostetky (violin), Milan Skampa (viola) and Antonin Kolout (cello) perform Haydn's String Quartet in D, Op. 64 No. 5. Mark Martin's *Madrigal* No. 2, for violin and viola; Smetana's String Quartet No. 1 in E minor (From My Life)

8.30 News

8.35 Your Concert Choice: Grilly, an American Ballet music; Zennaro at RPO under Thomas Beecham; Quantz (Hom Concerto No. 3 in E flat; Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Iona Brown with Barry Tuckwell, horn; Strauss (Deutsche Motette; Stockholm Chamber Choir/Stockholm Radio Choir under Eric Ericson; Moeran (Violin Concerto: LSO under Vernon Handley with John Gielgud, violin; Milhaud (La Chantrelle du Roi René; French National Orchestra (Wind Quintet); Scriabin (Prometheus; Ambrosian Singers, LPO under Lorin Maazel and Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano)

10.30 Music Weekly. With Michael Oliver. A Pole Apart: Adrian Thomas introduces works by Henryk Mikolaj Górecki, William Buxton, Composer and Heister, Fiona Richards examines the progression of Buxton's Piano Sonata. Authentic Elgar: Robert Phillips re-evaluates the composer's recordings in the light of different performance practices

11.15 Mahler's Resurrection Symphony. Tadeusz Olska conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra with the BBC Welsh Chorus (chormaster John Hugh Thomas), the Llangyfelach Chorus (chormaster Gert Frischmuth), and soloists Yvonne Kenny (soprano) and Alfredo Hodgson (contralto)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefs: Weather 6.10 Prelude (s) 6.30 News: Morning Has Broken (s) 6.55 Weather 7.00 News: 7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15 On Your Farm with Clara Powell 7.40 Sunday with Clive Jacobs and Karl Whittaker, and 7.55 Weather 8.00 News 8.10 Sunday Papers 8.50 The Week's Good Cause: Lord Coggan speaks on behalf of the John Grooms Association 8.55 Weather

9.00 News

9.15 Letter From America by Alastair Cooke

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3.30 The Radio Programme: Laurie Taylor with the magazine programme about radio

4.00 With Passport and Paracetamol: Seven true stories of women adventures (s)

4.30 Baptized of the Desert: The Story of Gertrude Bell, with Rosalie Crutchley as Gertrude. Narrated by Paul Denham (s)

4.47 Enquire Within with Dilly Barlow

5.00 News: Down The River Teifi: Cliff Morgan follows the route of the Teifi, which flows 72 miles from the mountains of mid-Wales, through Llangyfelach and Newcastle Emlyn to Cardigan and the sea (s) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

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BOOKS

Voyage to her father

Fiona MacCarthy follows Germaine Greer on a journey of discovery

After dinner at St John's in Cambridge the Master beckons Dr Germaine Greer to come and sit beside him. They imbibe the college burgundy. They talk about intelligence, the Master's special subject, and with an ancient gesture, paternal and approving, he pats his arthritic hand upon her wrist, knocking off the little pile of scented snuff she has been sniffing slowly up into her nostrils. "This young woman," he says, beaming, "has read my book."

All the old men in the world think of themselves as Germaine's Daddy, all except her real father, who apparently disowned her. He belittled her achievements. She was cut out of his will. Worst of all, he never hugged her. This she terribly resented, and her adult life is haunted by a

In such ways *The Female Eunuch* did indeed change people's lives.

Men are perverse and polarized. So where did that leave Daddy? How far, in fact, had life with father been an influence on that familiar *Female Eunuch* view of masculinity? Would Germaine have been gentler if Daddy had been fonder? There are interesting questions which bear on the obsessiveness with which Germaine Greer set out on her long travels to identify Reg Greer, the Houdini of Tasmania, a male version of Germaine not just in physical appearance, both bearing a strange resemblance to the kangaroo, but also in the twists and turns of his evasiveness, his resistance to consistency. He got through life without a birth certificate or passport. His persona was built up from a collection of preferences: it was assumed, for instance, since he always put his gloves on when he went out of the office, even in a Melbourne heatwave, that Reg Greer must be English. He was not.

DADDY, WE HARDLY KNEW YOU
By Germaine Greer
Hamish Hamilton, £13.95

As a study of the celebrated in pursuit of the almost non-existent, this book has its fascinations. Greer, so famously opposed to theories of penis-envy, is desperate to prove that her Daddy was a someone. She is used to, and indeed expects, enthusiastic service. She demands, and she is granted, an appearance on the *Wogan* show. Sir Ray Ferrall, doyen of Tasmanian newspaper owners, answers her letter absolutely instantly. Sydney Radio obligingly sets up a whole phone-in on anxiety neurosis, from which her father suffered. When people in the outback, librarians and archivists, fail to recognize her and her urgency of mission, she is very hoity-toity: if they happen to be women she claims crossly to be losing her faith in sisterhood.

Greer in action is one thing. As she traverses the continents enormously expensively, from Australia to India to Malta to England, she has her private telephone.

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then returning to Australia, her girlish vim and vigour are impressive and appealing: she acts the schoolgirl sleuth, Germaine of the Remove. It is Greer with the vapours who is much more of a worry. Germaine languid, Germaine wistful, Germaine sleepless, Germaine prostrate with anxiety symptoms as alarming as her father's. Woosh! Boom! Perhaps the horriddest of physical descriptions is the one in the first chapter of Germaine being sick.

Things go from bad to worse. As the research advances, Greer discovers that her father was not only not a somebody but was rather worse than nobody. He was illegitimate, a ward of court. His foster parents were called not Greer but Greeney. He had married under false pretences. He had deceived his wife (the thing Greer finds the least forgivable, denounced in most surprisingly shrill terms of bourgeois

outrage). Daddy's military service had been anything but glorious. He had been a cypher officer in Cairo and Malta, and his two official years of misleading and concealing seem to have increased his genius for self-obliteration. When he got back to Australia, in the years of Germaine's childhood, in very many senses there was no Reg Greer at all.

It is of course enough to send a daughter crazy; and there is a touching portrait of Greer in the guise of mad pre-Raphaelite maiden roaming through the meadows of Malta and of Gozo, contemplating the wild flowers and trying to sort out her responses to her father. The intensity of feeling welling up within her makes terrible demands on the patience of the reader. Self-censorship abandoned, she lurches into page after page of the most tiresome genealogies, in the deadpan style of the Great Bore of the Day. Her nature descriptions, at which Greer is not a natural, teeter

on the edge of comedy: there is the prize example of the "phantasmagoria of wilting petunias" on page 243. Worst of all, there are the dialogues Germaine sets up with Daddy. Some are quasi-Shakespearean, with Germaine as Cordelia, and are dreadfully embarrassing. Oh dear. Oh dear. Oh Greer.

Greer is not what she was. But I suppose she will recover. This book is still worth reading. It is a good bad book. Greer is still a bad good person. Aha, one thinks, relieved when she alights on a strong topic like the question of why men in general are so much more sexually confident than women. Her theory is that mothers carefully and dutifully build up their sons' confidence, systematically, daily, whereas fathers, being more erratic creatures, only boost their daughters' sense of lovability sporadically. Greer's next book (if she can bear it) should be about her mother. She can still get debates soaring like nobody else.

A bad smell in the air

PAPERBACKS

James Wood

ROTTEN BOROUGH
The Real Story of
Mrs Thatcher's Grantham
By Oliver Anderson
Fourth Estate, £5.95

down only by Anderson's fondness for pastiching Evelyn Waugh (Anderson will not turn a comic sentence if he can revolve one instead).

But, you will say, this book surely has little to do with the real Grantham of the 1930s, the Grantham in which Thatcher grew up, the Grantham that nurtured her father, Alfred Roberts, a man who became a member of the town's aldermanic bench, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. All one can say is that the luminaries of Grantham thought that the book had plenty to do with reality, and issued various libel writs. Only three weeks after publication, this fine and funny book was withdrawn from circulation. Things were easier, then, for the timid Ayatollahs of Lincolnshire: it is not known whether Oliver Anderson was given police protection.

Oliver Anderson's *Rotten Borough* suggests that over-zealous mercantilism has always been good for satirists. Written in the Thirties, and now reissued to coincide with the first decade of Thatcherism, this sly and sparkling tract comes loaded with those large, ironical resonances that only history can bring. The book was written as a satirical exposé of the Grantham of the 1930s, and in particular, of its municipal dignitaries — the men who sat on the Town Council but really served the Board of Commerce, men heavily unbolstered with now-famous virtues — thrift, decency, hard work — but sprung and padded with greed and hypocrisy.

The Grantham of *Rotten Borough* has a tallow factory at its centre which pollutes the air and makes the mere act of drawing breath well-nigh insupportable. Have repeated signed petitions from the inhabitants on the grounds of health and decency done anything to abate the nuisance? They have not. And why? Because the tallow factory belongs to the senior Alderman in the borough, Alderman Fred Twidale.

Anderson's theme is that you cannot worship two altars within one shrine; you can't exchange the modest theology of public service for the graven images of profit and loss. It is a wonderful tale, let

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Bad Behaviour, by Mary Galskill (Sceptre, £3.99) Razor-sharp stories about the dark side of human relationships in American big city melting-pot.

Diamonds of the Night, by Arnold Lustig (Quartet Encounters, £6.95) Stark short stories set in Nazi concentration camps, by leading Czech fiction-writer, the most important (pretty well the only) Jewish writer of Bohemia to have survived the Holocaust.

Flesh for Freedom and Royal Flash, by George MacDonald Fraser (Fontana, £3.50 each) Larks with Flashman scuttling and chucking through the motorways of history.

Into the Ebb, by Christopher Rush (Aberdeen University Press, £9.50) The latest collection of poet's stories from the East Neuk of Fife, from country kirk, session to pierhead gossip.

Wild Justice, by Lesley Grant-Adams (Faber, £3.95) Fleet Street whodunit featuring a rancorous caste of megalomaniac hacks — how different from the home life of our own civilized scribes.

NON-FICTION
East End 1888, by William J. Fishman (Duckworth, £9.95) Life for the labouring poor a century ago, to cure sentimental nostalgia for Victorian values.

The Interpretation of Early Music, by Robert Donington

QUICK LIST

(Faber, £14.99) New edition, first in paperback, that takes us back as near as possible to the sounds and sweet twangs.

Memorise Juvenal, selections from the proceedings of the Virgil Society, edited by Fred Robertson (Bristol Classical Press, £9.95) Interesting and influential papers by the choice and master scholars of the wielder of the stiletmost measure ever moulded.

The Real Charles, The Man Behind the Myth, by Alan Hamilton (Fontana, £3.95) Behind the gossip, fantasy, and make-believe, the professional's account of the Prince of Wales, done with style and humour — and accuracy.

The Times Guide to 1992, by Richard Owen and Michael Dynes (Times Books, £5.95) Comprehensive handbook to Britain in a Europe without frontiers, giving essential information on the important step on the long march of British history, by two Times correspondents, and accordingly reader-friendly as well as authoritative.

Utilitarian Ethics, by Anthony Quinton (Duckworth, £5.95) Clear, concise introduction to Bentham, Mill, their predecessors and critics, with argument and commentary by one of our finest expounders of philosophy.

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

● **The Crime of the Century**, by Kingsley Amis (Hutchinson, £11.95). It was a good wheeze at the time, a seven-chapter serial in *The Sunday Times* in which the action stopped after six episodes to allow imaginative readers to send in their own solutions. The murders too are serial, starting with an apparent pattern — young girls and thin-bladed knives — then disintegrating into the random. It's superior hokum and quite fun for its short length — the 140 pages include the winning reader's solution as well as Amis's.

● **The Knot Garden**, by Geoff Nicholson (Hodder & Stoughton, £1.95). A risk-taking virtuoso performance that almost comes off. Libidinous television gardening star is found dead in hotel bedroom. His suspicious but ungrateful wife persuades a half dozen or more assorted (very) oddballs to prove murder. Nicholson manages to juggle a snooker-table of first-person narrators with breathless skill, and an enormous sense of enthusiasm. The climax is substantial let-down, but the book is worth reading for its sheer inventiveness.

● **Condition Purple**, by Peter Turnbull (Collins, £10.95). Enthralling portrait of Glasgow, underbelly in clutched story of vicious killings in hookerland. "P" Division investigates patiently among the druggies and pornographers. Top class police procedural, peopled with believably human coppers and powerfully drawn villains and victims. Soft stomachs a disadvantage, but perseverers will be rewarded.

● **Crimson Joy**, by Robert B. Parker (Viking, £11.95). Boston

private eye Spencer semi-officially involved in seeking a homicidal maniac who kills black women, leaves red roses on the scene, is probably a policeman, and might be a patient of Spencer's shrink girlfriend. The new mellow, responsible Spencer is, regrettably, not as interesting as the edgier version in Parker's earlier books, and there's more than a hint that he's becoming serious. Needs reformatting if he wants to stay in the top league.

● **The Sports of Time**, by June Thomson (Constable, £10.95). Two old men, friends become enemies, die on the same night in the same house, one apparently of natural causes, the other seemingly not. A household teeming with secrets and guilt, and the moody and perceptive Detective Inspector Finch, pining for his lost love, on hand to unravel and clarify. Thomson is in top claustrophobic form, weaving an intricate absorbing plot with extraordinary guile.

● **Backlash**, by Paula Gosling (Macmillan, £10.95). Return of American 'tec Jack Stryke on trail of systematic police exterminator, his spunky academic lover Kate away at an English conference, and temptation in the form of his new tough-guy operating partner Dana. Gosling is excellent at the personal/police work *mélange*, and the rising tension as the killer eludes detection is skilfully and grippingly paced.

Games people play

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Philip Howard

THE GROWN-UPS



By Victoria Glendinning
Hutchinson, £11.95

No one is very grown-up or credible in this entertaining story of our contemporary wars of the sexes; especially none of the men. The protagonist, Leo Ulm, is an aging telly-star social philosopher, hero of the flower children of the Sixties, with intimations of McLuhan and Umberto Eco. You can tell that this monster of male chauvinist vanity is a pseud from his vulnerable, little-boy-lost lopsided smile, and the fact that he does not know the names of flowers. He writes Mrs Thatcher speeches for the 1987 election for her, has a stroke at a royal garden party, and comes to a fishy end on the night of the great storm.

Any number of Leo's circle of female satellites might have helped him on his way, or at any rate been relieved to be at last rid of his fatal attraction, including several otherwise intelligent women who are besotted by his alleged glamour. There is Charlotte, the elderly former wife he ditched, who is going quietly mad in the cottage across the lake; her long-suffering younger replacement, who is appropriately called Martha; and Martha's two young friends since school, sexy, silly Alice who married Charlotte's and Leo's blind son, and Clara, the one nice and almost grown-up character in the cast.

In case this sounds like what is

dismissed as another "woman's novel" of adultery and angst among the Hampstead classes, there are wider perspectives. The political state of the nation is spikily observed. In the decay of approaching death, Charlotte has Apocalyptic and Armageddon visions. There is the funniest academic interlude since David Lodge's *Nice Work*, at a conference in Washington where Leo has what he hopes is a one-night stand with a French delegate. The gross littleness of domestic life, the fustian and jettison of Eighties

Britain, are headily observed against the tides of history outside.

Some of it is highly spiced. The book starts with the modern four-letter equivalent of the sensational old *Green Hat* intro: "Hell, said the duchess." Martha and Leo's little daughter is blackmailed into eating a worm by ghastly visiting children: the book is sharp on the nasty games children of all ages play. Clara, who is sympathetic because she is unsure what to think about things, is said to be more full of vague regrets than a corpse is of worms. This could be indicated less blatantly. The book is funny on such fundamentally funny things as the male genitalia, and masculine fears of sexual inadequacy, and full of traps. Calm Martha, the earth mother, starts drilling holes in deeply frozen chickens, and you realize that she has finally cracked at having to prepare yet another meal for visiting Leo-worshippers.

No one ever knows the whole story. The people on the inside know a few small things, mostly about themselves. The people on the outside know a few big things, from which they draw the wrong conclusions. Nobody quite knows, or dares to ask, what happened to Leo. This is a lively, cleverly constructed and funny tale of the strange ways of men with women, and women with men.

No 3 IN THE SERIES

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THE ARTS

Myths of the honky-tonker

On the eve of the Wembley country festival, Buck Owens tells David Toop of the horrors of assembly-line music

Raucous, rebel-rousing. A honky-tonker. That's what they're saying about Buck Owens and Buck is not always sure whether the descriptions are flattering. "Man," he exclaims, "I've got to have an interpreter to tell if the media likes me or not."

No interpreters are needed, however, when Buck starts talking about crossover country music. His description threatens to stretch into infinity. "It's what I call all that ooey-goey, molasses-laden, assembly-line, machine, robot-produced music," he says. Five years ago, ooey-goey country of the easy listening, Kenny Rogers variety was erasing the last remnants of a music that had once been tough, direct, full of strong stories with touching, even bizarre imagery, played by some of the best musicians in America. Hillbilly heaven had shifted from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee to the corporate high-rise buildings of Los Angeles.

Buck Owens has seen all this coming, back in the late Seventies, and was busy in Bakersfield, California, running a successful business operation that included radio, typesetting and printing presses. During the Sixties he enjoyed a remarkable run of 26 consecutive number one singles on the country charts, writing and

recording many songs that would become familiar through cover versions by other artists. The Beatles recorded "Act Naturally", Ray Charles recorded "Crying Time", "Together Again" and "I've Got a Tiger by the Tail" and in 1980 "Hot Dog" was a British hit for Shakin' Stevens.

Owens's record sales dipped in the Seventies but his face stayed familiar, too familiar in his own opinion, thanks to a long-running residency on the American television show *Hee-Haw*. His close associate, guitarist Don Rich, was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1974. "For the next few years I think I just went through the motions," Owens says with a sigh. "In retrospect I think I was in shock. Then the *Urban Cowboy* and the country pop rage came along. It was a music I didn't like. I was so sick of what music had turned into. I couldn't complete with that. I tried to compromise and, to be quite blunt, it made me gag."

In 1979 he left the business and convinced himself that he was happy out of it. Then, in 1986, records began to emerge from a new type of country singer whose voices had the plangent timbre of the honky-tonk tradition. The corny choruses, the violins, the prissy rhythm sections were swept aside by fiddles and crying steel guitars. To use the word coined by



Buck Owens, a trend: country singer Buck Owens, round for the second time American writer Nelson George, it was reneuvé. The new young purists such as Dwight Yoakam, Randy Travis and K.D. Lang took their references from Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Kitty Wells and Patsy Cline.

On his second album, Dwight Yoakam, all tight ripped jeans, cowboy hat and boots and gaudy

'Bring along earplugs, I never did say I wasn't raucous'

Owens is fond of saying at the tail-end of an anecdote, his own life, though undoubtedly too colourful to be anything other than true, is mythopoetic. It is the kind of life that has been turned into films such as *Coal Miner's Daughter* and *Sweet Dreams*. The Owens family travelled from Sherman, Texas in the early 1930s, when Buck was eight years old, driving away from the Dust Bowl drought towards California. Their car broke down in Mesa, Arizona, and so they settled.

His mother played piano in church, his father played guitar, but Owens's formative exposure to country music came from listening to the powerful radio stations that broadcast from the Mexican border, beaming out hillbilly music, western swing, Mexican *ranchera*, and, later, rock 'n' roll alongside advertising for quick remedies like goat-gland transplant surgery and a hair dye, Kolorak, that was found to cause lead poisoning. "We lived up in the mountains," says Buck. "My daddy had an old car radio, if you

can believe they made these back in 1938, and he brought it in the house. He would take the battery out of the car and that was our entertainment."

In the summer he would go to California, picking up potatoes, peaches and cutting grapes and then return to Arizona for school. "I wore paste board," he says, "and my shoes were linoleum." At the age of 16 he started playing guitar and singing in the small local taverns, eventually moving to Bakersfield.

During those years he also commuted to Los Angeles to play sessions for many Capitol recording artists, including Gene Vincent, Wanda Jackson, Stan Freberg, Tommy Sands and Faron Young. This was a period when producers such as Owen Bradley and Chet Atkins, followed by Billy Sherrill, began adding "sweetening" to recordings of country to broaden its popular appeal. Owens disapproved and in 1965 published his *Pledge to Country Music* which, among other headline statements, promised: "I shall make no record that is not a country record."

His own wide definition of country developed in rough dancehalls whose owners were prone to fire guns and drive cars through their own doorways. At 60, coming round for the second time, the music born of this apprenticeship still prevails. "Bring your earplugs," he warns. "I never did say I wasn't raucous."

Buck Owens appears at Wembley Arena tomorrow as part of the three-day International Festival of Country Music.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Ham from the Pru

We are all heaving a sigh of relief since the Prudential's announcement that it is \$40 million better off than expected this year. This will mean there are funds for the newest and richest arts prizes, the £200,000 Prudential Awards for the Arts.

It will also be the most aesthetically cosmopolitan, judging from the entries: the Royal Opera, English Shakespeare and the National Gallery take on the likes of the Snarling Beasts Theatre Company, Geographical Duet and the Newham Community Mural Project. Prizes include £25,000 for each of the five category winners and £75,000 for the overall laureate.

It is hard enough being a millionaire author, Ian St James tells me, but being a millionaire author with an idea is something else. Promoting his new £28,000 personally funded short story awards scheme, he gave 125 interviews in 45 towns in 18 days. Life was easier when he was a management consultant called Don Taylor. "If I went into a public toilet, by the time I came out, I would have formed two more companies with the two men on each side of me."

Drama dinner

As arts organizations cast about for more and more exotic and complex ways of attracting sponsorship, the London International Festival of Theatre organizers



Eating for art: Miller and Gorrive have come up with something novel. Hungary's top theatre company, Katona Jozsef, is to perform Gogol's *Government Inspector* and Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at the Old Vic, but it will cost £21,000.

To raise the cash, the festival administrator, Julia Rowntree, has organized the ultimate Hungarian dinner - by flying from Budapest the Lagard Brothers-top Magyar chefs, to cook it. Business people are paying a minimum £100 for a place at table at the St. James Court Hotel, Buckingham Gate, in April. At the head will be Lord Gorrive and at his right, Jonathan Miller, the Vic's artistic director.

Simon Tait

A Bird's Eye view of old Captain Golding

TELEVISION

When he was 10 years old, William Golding swallowed a splinter of wood from Nelson's cabin on HMS Victory. Sixty-eight years later, the Grand Old Man of English Literature has unkempt hair, snowy whiskers and favours chunky-knit sweaters; he looks every inch the sea captain, the sort who will spin a rip-roaring yarn at the drop of a salted herring.

On *The South Bank Show Special* (LWT) Melvyn Bragg interviewed the Nobel prize winning novelist whose *Fire Down Below*, just published, is the last part of the nautical trilogy that started with *Rites of Passage*. The dramatized extracts from the books were hearty, if at times a little reminiscent of *Blackadder*, but the programme's trump card was Golding himself, making like a pro at the piano, declaring that old age is the golden time of life, or reading from his work with a brio which made everyone else look as if they were under sedation.

British writers are fortunate in that they are surrounded by water. Boats, too, are a useful source of metaphor; much of our everyday language is rooted in sea-faring

terminology. Bragg demonstrated with a sudden eruption of timber shivering logorrhoea.

The ship in his trilogy is, Golding freely admitted, a *Microcosm of Society*, with all the power wrangling and class differences which that implies; it sounded a bit like a high seas version of *Grand Hotel* with period trappings. If ever his status as a novelist had needed asserting, it has certainly been assured now - he has been given the rare accolade of having been interviewed by Bragg twice.

The question being addressed in *Through The Keyhole* (Yorkshire TV) was "Who's House Is This?" or, more precisely, "Who's Leatherette Bound Books and China Figurines are These?" Lloyd Grossman pointed out clues, while, back in the studio, David Frost looked seriously jet-lagged and a team of quasi-celebrities tried to guess the homeowner's identity.

This would be a British *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, except that the subjects are neither particularly rich nor extremely famous. What would be really good would be if Grossman were encouraged to trespass on premises without the owners' knowledge, and before they'd had a chance to tidy up.

Anne Billson

Dining out on class conflicts

THEATRE

Dinner Warehouse, Croydon

Mark Bunyan has come up with an amusing structure for revealing current obsessions with class and food. The bones eventually gain body enough to hint at a play within, but this does not happen until the second half, so that, to use an apt image, most of the meal is starters.

The cast of four - two of each sex - play four married couples living within dining distance of each other. These eight characters are spread across a spectrum of political attitudes, from lofty

moneyed Clifford with his Pretoria contacts, to angry veg-eating Lizzy marching against apartheid.

But there is also the social spread, with Clifford's wife Arabella (Sally Faulkner), coming from landed gentry, condescending to nervous David who did go to university but wishes he had not also gone to a grammar school. The same actor, Paul Gregory, plays both these types, Jonathan Hackett plays Lizzy's earnest, banner-waving husband (public school and university) as well as Guy, up several notches on the income scale and public school too - but also not university.

By causing these various couples to meet at dinner tables some sparks fly from the clash of class and conscience - not that the moneyed set indicate much of



Condescending: Sally Faulkner is clearly for the political activists, despite their barmy moments - "After the coffee we'll play the Nicaraguan video". But the play ends with them exchanging abuse with the right-wingers, all four of

them dressed for the first time in the same grey.

The potential of mealtime conversation eventually runs out and the evening is only saved (and only just) by the party where various couples chat and the couple not chatting clap on masks and utter unspoken thoughts. The contrast between motive and expression is sharp and hilarious, particularly when superior Clifford is attracted to left wing Lizzy (charming performance by Pamela Moiseiwitsch). Her excited burst of "He fancies me! Oh, power! Money!" has to fall victim to the sober "No. South African fruit." Unfortunately, too many of the play's dramatic possibilities are similarly squashed.

Jeremy Kingston

The Lady from the Sea

New End, NW3

Without going so far as to say this play cannot be credibly staged, I have yet to see a production in a theatre that captures both the anguish of the moony heroine and spritely naturalism of the surrounding characters. Furthermore, it is not a play that should be mounted by fringe companies with slender resources.

Ibsen set the action in various parts of a remote fjord, and at various times of the day and night. Steamers are passing on their way to view the midnight sun but this supplies no meteorological precedent for playing the midnight scene - in which the keen-eyed Stranger, awesome as the sea, comes to claim the Lady for his own - as if it took place in a tropical blaze. Nor is a sense of the imprisoning mountain ranges adequately conveyed by a permanent background of purple flats. The only hope is to create poetic effects with lighting.

J. K.

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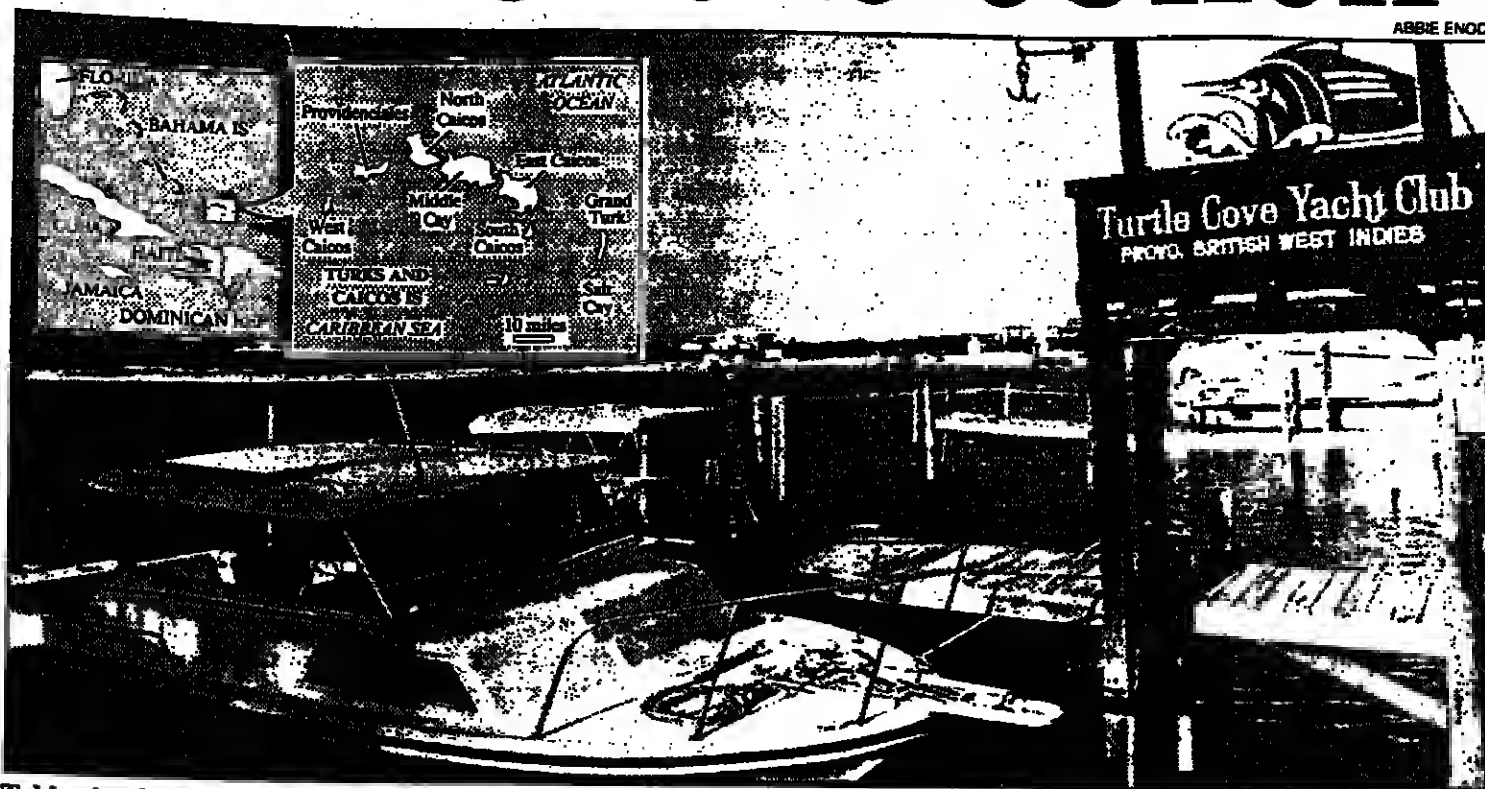
Michael Watkins
finds the Turks
and Caicos Islands
as relaxed as
he could wish

Leaving, with barest reluctance, the dreaming spires and marzipan towers of battle-weary Miami, I boarded a clipper for Providenciales, which, in case you are wondering, lies 375 miles south-east of Florida, slightly north of Cuba and Haiti. Abbreviated to "Provo", it is one of a group of eight islands and 40 smaller cays known as the Turks and Caicos, a British Crown colony.

My first impression was of low-lying scrubland — not unlike an army haircut — ascending dramatically to a central plateau as verdigris as Waistad Flats, fringed by superb beaches. This remained my second, third and lasting impression: for, whatever else Provo might offer to tickle the fancy, it is short, on surprises. Where else promotes, as a major tourist attraction, a conch farm? Having attended the guided tour, I still needed convincing that the conch leads anything other than a sedentary, uneventful life — the average conch is rather a bore.

At the same time, the conch has a weirdly osmotic effect, on Provo, translating its own *laissez faire* attitudes to the island's human population. As a conch will take an age to put on a millimeter in growth, so will an islander take a day and a half to reach any decision beyond that which is ordained by nature. In other words, although he rises in the morning and retires at night with little mental stress, it's the bit in the middle that taxes his powers of ingenuity.

Far from being discommoded by such lethargy, I found it immensely gratifying. The expatriates I met were living out the reality of a dream — which would become eroded only by a population explosion of other dreamers. With irregular airline connections, scarcity of hotel accommodation and building land, their dream tenure remains intact. But the portents are inauspicious. Cable television has introduced 32 varieties of idiosyncrasy at the touch of a switch. Club (Golg?) Mediterranean



Taking it calmly on Providenciales: a view of the club, showing all the charm of the sleepy islands which are British Crown colonies

brings in groups of 600 to fry their brains in the sun. Sberaton and Ramada have started building hotels. There are plans for a casino. A hitherto unknown species of entrepreneur has alighted, conquistadors armed with Samsonite briefcases and Harvard business degrees. At the Yacht Club I eavesdropped on one such proselytiser preaching that in five years he'd make his fortune and clear out. Someone else told me that all the island needed was a "gimmick" to be as rich as Croesus.

Over breakfast, the Hon Hilary Ewing, Provo's representative on the legislative council, told me: "We can't stand still and we can't go back; so it's tourism. We'll go for broke, the sweet and the sour."

It seemed a valedictory message; so, consistent with the mood, I took my leave, chartering (it's that or swimming) a Piper Sepaca for Salt Cay. Flying for an hour, we dipped and swerved over atolls so diaphanous they seemed like huge jellyfish; we landed on a rough coral strand, and the pilot marooned me in emptiness and uncertainty. After a while, someone cycled up, asked me what I wanted, and pedalled off again. Later, drawing a sipoco of dust in its wake, a battered station-wagon drew up. "Sam," announced

the driver, shaking my hand with a grip that dislocated a couple of unimportant bones. "We'd heard on the radio you were coming some time. Did you bring the fish?" What fish, I asked. "Red Snapper," Sam replied. "Your supper."

I'll try to explain how happy I was on Salt Cay. Bermudian salt rakers settled the island in 1673; but today the salt ponds are abandoned, made obsolete by refrigeration. It reminded me of the outer Scottish islands, very poor, with low white-washed cottages speckling a land area of two miles by three-and-a-half. Inhabitants total 236, including Sandy Leggett, a Glaswegian, the sole white man. Shipwrecked in 1967, he liked what he saw and did something very sensible: he married a local widow, Mistress Been, and settled. He fixes things, he said, paints all the signs and does a lot of reading. Their walls are hung with brightly coloured pictures of the Lord Jesus; and Sandy wore a much sweated sweat-shirt covering the convexity of his 70-year-old paunch. One fine day he'll go back to take a final look at Glasgow; but I know and he knew I knew that no day will be quite fine enough.

Sam and Bonnie, his wife, gave me a room at Windmills; a large, airy room overlooking the sea, the colours of which have not yet found

their way into the English language. After supper, we scrunched the station-wagon (there are no made-up roads) to Leon's Bar, where we played pool to the accompaniment of dominoes slammed viciously on to a table.

There are five churches and about six family homes on the cay; everyone is related. Even the dogs look alike. There's talk about starting up the salt ponds again, but I don't imagine anyone seriously believes it. Oh, I expect people gossip; there'll be whiffs of hocus-pocus; but I loved this place so much I just don't want to think about that. When Sam and Bonnie saw me off on the six-minute hop to Grand Turk, we looked at each other and said how much we liked each other. People don't do that often; perhaps we should.

Grand Turk turned out to be not at all grand. Mind you, I stayed only one night; but I couldn't see any shops. There must be a supermarket somewhere, I suppose. There were some pretty, faded colonial-built houses, with pink corrugated tin roofs. Beyond the coral reef is the "Wall", which falls to a depth of 4,000 feet, spectacular for scuba-diving, they say; but I had time only to collect myself for dinner.

I'd been asked to dine at Government House, the invitation —

embossed with the royal coat of arms — stipulated "informal", so I chanced my arm, leaving my tie behind. None of the men wore a tie and I sat on the right of His Excellency's wife, Patricia Bradley. I said that I felt the islands were waiting for something to happen, a benign American invasion perhaps, though just as threatening, in its way, as the Marine Corps wading ashore from landing barges.

She replied very gently, so that I sensed she loved the place too: "You should stay longer and explore the under-currents."

TRAVEL NOTES

Virgin Atlantic flights to Miami (0203 38222), cost \$495 economy return, £1,644 in Upper Class. Miami to Providenciales by Pan-Am (01-409 0688), £140 return. Turtle Cove Yacht Club, Provo (0101 809 946 4203). Telefax 0101-809 946 4141; double room: approximately £81 excluding service or tax. On Salt Cay, Windmills is developing a seven-room hotel; inquiries to Divi Hotels, 54 Gunderman Road, Danby, New York 14050. Grand Turk: Kitina Hotel (0101-809 946 2532); beach double room: £58. Further information from Turks and Caicos Tourist Board, Grand Turk, British West Indies, (Tele: 8227 CHIEFSEC70).

TRAVEL NEWS

Room at the top?

London's most luxurious hotels have been hardest hit by falling tourist numbers, a new report says. To find reasonably priced hotels, people are increasingly having to look outside the city centre.

Although the number of overseas visitors to Britain rose last year by 1.4 per cent to 15.66 million, the number visiting the capital fell by 0.1 million to 9.2 million. And tourist spending in London last year fell by £60 million to £3,500 million.

The report, from management consultants Pannell Kerr Forster Associates, says: "The relative expense of London's four and five-star hotels has been highlighted recently in two surveys that bestow on them the dubious honour of being the most expensive, and second most expensive, hotels within their groups in the world." Not all hotels confirm the report's findings. At The Ritz, for example, there has been no downturn in overseas visitors. Food and beverage director Andrew Coy said: "It is British visitors, people like you and me celebrating an anniversary, whose business is 2 per cent slower this year. Our American visitors are coming in about the same numbers as last year, and we are seeing more Australians."

The fashion for upgrading many of the capital's hotels through expensive refurbishments is increasing competition at the top, and reducing the stock of affordable budget accommodation. The Dorchester is currently closed for a £72 million renovation, and the Langham, formerly an hotel and for many years used as offices by the BBC, is due to re-open as an hotel next year after a £50 million restoration.

Hoteliers in locations where trade is more seasonal will envy London managers their average occupancy rate of 77 per cent. But if hotels are to continue to prosper, they will have to improve their image as employers and pay their staff better, the report says. "Hotels require people, both for operation and personality. The decline in the number of young people coming into employ-

ment in the 1990s is something that must be addressed now." It predicts that flexible working hours and the provision of child-care facilities will be an integral part of the solution.

● Outlook In The Hotel And Tourism Industries — London Trends 1989, £25 from Pannell Kerr Forster Associates (01-831 7393).

Jump to it

Straight from the horse's rider's mouth — racing journalist Lord Oaksey tells a tale of the Grand National's most famous fence in *What's Happening in Britain*. Becher's Brook, he recounts, was named for a rider called Captain Becher who, 150 years ago, failed to clear a stream at the landing side of the sixth fence. He was afterwards heard to remark that he never realized water tasted so foul without brandy. The first issue of the new monthly magazine is in newsagents now and costs £2.

● Two thousand new luggage trolleys will bring Heathrow's trolley strength up to 9,200 when they begin service on April 11. In addition to the airport's own staff in grey and blue uniforms who are to volunteer to help passengers who are disabled, elderly or travelling with young children (they are not allowed to accept tips), a new Skycap service will offer porters at £5 for carrying "any number of bags within reason". Skycap uniforms will be red and grey.

Thai the knots

Cruise the coast of Thailand under sail with *Thai Yachting* (06285 28734). Its six and nine-berth boats cost from £280 a day with crew. The fleet's home port is Sattahip, about 12 miles south of the resort of Pattaya, and charters can be as short as a single day. Sailing grounds include the Thai Gulf and the Andaman Sea.

● Edinburgh's George Hotel (031 225 1251) has a two-for-one mini-break offer at £77 a night per executive, twin or double bedroom, for stays on Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights. The offer price includes continental breakfast, service and VAT.

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor



Those with an appetite for France should start here, just across the channel at one of the many pavement cafés or restaurants in and around Dunkerque.

Try the local speciality 'Plateau de fruits du mer' an exquisite concoction of shrimp, crayfish, oysters, crab and other shellfish served on a bed of ice. And, enjoy coffee with Genievre, not a friendly local, but a juniper liqueur, uniquely flavoured by the local water. Send off the coupon and we'll send more food for thought.

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TRAVEL

Playing away

Philippa Toomey takes a trip to New York and Washington and finds that the cities are a stage

There were 23 of us giving our regards to Broadway on a week-long London Arts Discovery Tour for a week in November. For some years this company has brought American groups to Britain to enjoy the best of our theatre, and this was its first venture the other way across the Atlantic.

The sky tipped half an inch of rain on us as we arrived at the Hotel Dorset in West 54th Street, handy for Fifth Avenue and Broadway. From then on, New York was at its brilliant, sparkling best.

An orientation trip by bus took us up to the upper West side to see the Cathedral of St John the Divine, still unfinished. It is a magnificent and enormous place, with stained glass containing some odd items (such as the advent of television, great generals and their battles). Buy your own gargyle to the Cathedral shop.

First stop on the way to the theatre was the Museum of Broadcasting at East 53rd Street. The museum, in the old Stork Club, was created in 1975 by William Paley, founder of CBS. It has a collection of more than 40,000 items from radio and television, and you can watch a favourite show with your own screen and headset. Early television went out live, as was rudely demonstrated by a CBS camera appearing

abruptly in the background of Maurice Evans's *Macbeth* in 1949.

That evening we saw *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang — a dazzling evening, finishing up with a discussion with the actors on how they had accomplished this difficult and brilliant play which opens here next month with Anthony Hopkins.

Tuesday morning saw the first discussion meeting with tour leader Michael Billington, theatre critic of *The Guardian*. We were all theatre buffs, and these talks were, to me, a most enjoyable and valuable part of the tour.

On to the Museum of Modern Art, and the rest of the day was free to range the shops and museums — the Metropolitan and Fraok Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim, where the museum sometimes seems the masterpiece rather than the exhibits. The evening saw us at Stephen Sondheim's 1988 Tony award-winning *Into the Woods*, a musical which takes a number of old fairy tales and gives them the Sondheim touch. There was an expertly played bit of a Red Riding Hood and a domestic Cinderella who

couldn't adjust to being a princess.

Wednesday offered an unexpected treat, when the Museum of Broadcasting put on a special performance of Sondheim's *Evening Primrose*, a 1960s television musical with a spooky little story starring Anthony Perkins. Theo it was on to a matinee of *Legs Diamond*, the only new, big Broadway musical of 1988. It was still in preview after some months, for reasons which became instantly apparent: the dancing was splendid, the scenery was marvellous and the star, Peter Allen, well known and loved in America... but he was also the writer for the music and lyrics, and he was terrible. The play finally foundered in mid-February.

Off to *Coriolanus*, which had just opened at the Public Theatre in Greenwich Village, with Christopher Walken in the title role and Irene Worth as his mother. It was directed by Steven Berkoff in the black leather and grievous bodily harm manner, on a stage empty but for a dozen elegant black chairs. I found it fascinating, if chilly; others bled

out at half-time. It was quite a day.

Thursday was Thanksgiving, and those not sleeping in turned out to watch a real piece of American tradition, Macy's Parade on Broadway.

On Friday we went to Washington by Amtrak. A brisk whirl round the city ended in a private tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library, where we saw bits of a rehearsal at the Elizabethan theatre (seating only 275) and were allowed to look at some of the treasures, including the prompt copy for John Barrymore's *Hamlet* in 1923 (almost nothing left of Polonius or the Player-King) and Henry VIII's copy of Cicero.

The River Inn, where we stayed, was only 200 yards from the Foggy Bottom Metro stop and a matter of minutes into the city centre. *Anything Goes*, the Cole Porter musical starring Leslie Uggams, was the entertainment for the evening. On Saturday at the Arena Stage, Zelda Fichandler, its founder, producing director and powerhouse, talked to us for an hour. The theatre had a hard time of it when it was founded 30 years ago, but it now has three stages offering a repertoire of the best and newest.

TRAVEL NOTES

London Arts Discovery Tours (01-434 9973). Another seven-night tour departs on May 27 — cost from £1,085.



Spot the masterpiece: Frank Lloyd Wright's building of the Guggenheim Museum

The restricted range of decent skiing throughout the Alps makes waiting for the most popular lifts inevitable. Although the weather is likely to continue on the cold side, and unsettled, there is little prospect of the heavy falls of snow that are needed to open up the lower slopes again.

For the first time this winter, the best snow has been falling in the Calvados. The Alps have been covered by a thick, rather cloudy air stream, which produced a little snow at higher levels and a continuing thaw lower down. Although it turned colder on Thursday, there was not enough snow to repair the damage.

TRAVEL BOOKS

● *Blueprint France* (Berlitz, £9.95) is a lively, lucid guide to the country that attracts the largest number of independent travellers from Britain. Like its sister volume *Blueprint Italy*, it mixes history, culture, gastronomy and the mundane practicalities of getting about with a refreshingly head-on view of the natives: "Behind its carefully constructed, grouchy facade, this race of perpetual malcontents clearly believes that France is the most splendid place on earth." A road atlas, and mapped leisure routes, are printed in colour, as are the many illustrations.

● *The Seasoned Traveller*, (Christopher Helm, £7.95) by Carol Wright, who is exactly that, suggests where to go in Europe in any month of the year. In April "the Greek islands are already as green and warm as an English summer's day", and "in southern Europe one can eat out of doors". It makes a companion volume to the expanding selection of city and short-break brochures with their cheap flights and inexpensive packages in the "shoulder months". That is travel trade jargon for the least popular seasons for holidays.

● *The Holiday Which? Guide To France* (Hodder and Stoughton, £9.95) is particularly useful for its descriptions of places to stay. A new, revised edition has just been published.

Shona Crawford Poole

In France, at resorts like La Plagne and Méribel, the best skiing is above 2,000m. The same story applies in Switzerland at Verbiers and Crans Montana. In some places curtains and screens have been erected to protect the snow on the drag lifts from the sun. Austria has much the same conditions, but good snow can be found at lower altitudes. At Saalbach there are decent spring conditions above 1,500m. The slopes have not been crowded.

W.J. Burroughs

● The ski season on the travel pages ends this week. For information about next season's brochures and early booking offers, don't miss the weekly *Travel News* column.

SKIING DIARY

FRANCE Chamonix Mar 25-29: Ice hockey — world junior championships. La Clusaz Mar 25-31: Telermarc Europa Cup. Méribel, Tignes, Val d'Isère Mar 30: Ballantines ski challenge races. SWITZERLAND Verbier Mar 28: Super G, organized by the Swiss Ski School. AUSTRIA Zell am See Mar 30: Zeller Fish guests race: giant slalom open to all. ITALY San Sicario Mar 25-27: Super heliskiing in the Susa Valley.

Peter Hankey

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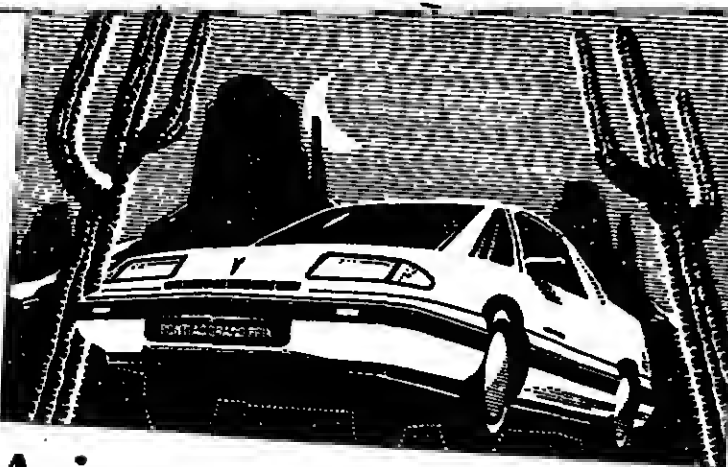
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Paris	7, 14, 21 Apr	3	IT to ST	BB	From £101
Paris	28 Apr	3	IT to ST	BB	From £116
Paris	3, 10, 17, 24 Apr	4	Square Deal	BB	From £89
Paris	2, 9, 16, 23 Apr	5	Square Deal	BB	From £99
Amsterdam	12, 19 May	3	Square Deal	BB	From £115
Amsterdam	3 Apr-15 May	4	Square Deal	BB	From £129
Dutch Bulbfields	5, 12, 19 May	3	Square Deal	H2	From £129
Dutch Bulbfields	1, 8, 15 May	4	Square Deal	H2	From £149
Moscow/Leningrad	22 Apr	3 + 4	4T	H2	£349
Moscow/Leningrad	6, 20 May, 3 Jun	3 + 4	4T	H2	£419
Leningrad/Moscow	29 Apr, 13, 27 May	3 + 4	4T	H2	£419
Leningrad/Moscow	13 May, 10, 24 Jun	4 + 3	4T	H2	£419
Lisbon	1, 8 May	7	25 to 4T	BB	From £159
Rome	18 May	3	IT to ST	BB	From £215
Rome	23, 30 Apr, 14 May	4	IT to ST	BB	From £199
Florence	13, 20 Apr, 4 May	3	IT to ST	BB	From £171
Florence	27 Apr	3	IT to ST	BB	From £186
Florence	16 Apr-21 May	4	IT to ST	BB	From £189
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Venice	16 Apr-21 May	4	IT to ST	BB	From £185

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Amsterdam	5-12 Jun	2	5-12 Jun	Amsterdam	HB FB	£499
Amsterdam	13-20 Jun	2	13-20 Jun	Amsterdam	HB FB	£429
Amsterdam	21-28 Jun	2	21-28 Jun	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	29 Jun-5 Jul	2	29 Jun-5 Jul	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	6-13 Jul	2	6-13 Jul	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	14-21 Jul	2	14-21 Jul	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	22-29 Jul	2	22-29 Jul	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	30 Jul-6 Aug	2	30 Jul-6 Aug	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	7-14 Aug	2	7-14 Aug	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	15-22 Aug	2	15-22 Aug	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	23-30 Aug	2	23-30 Aug	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	31 Aug-7 Sep	2	31 Aug-7 Sep	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	8-15 Sep	2	8-15 Sep	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	16-23 Sep	2	16-23 Sep	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	24-30 Sep	2	24-30 Sep	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	1-8 Oct	2	1-8 Oct	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	9-16 Oct	2	9-16 Oct	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	17-24 Oct	2	17-24 Oct	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
Amsterdam	25-31 Oct	2	25-31 Oct	Amsterdam	HB FB	£479
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WORLDWIDE
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Makir
There is no world between the Princes and the Princesses and the common people.

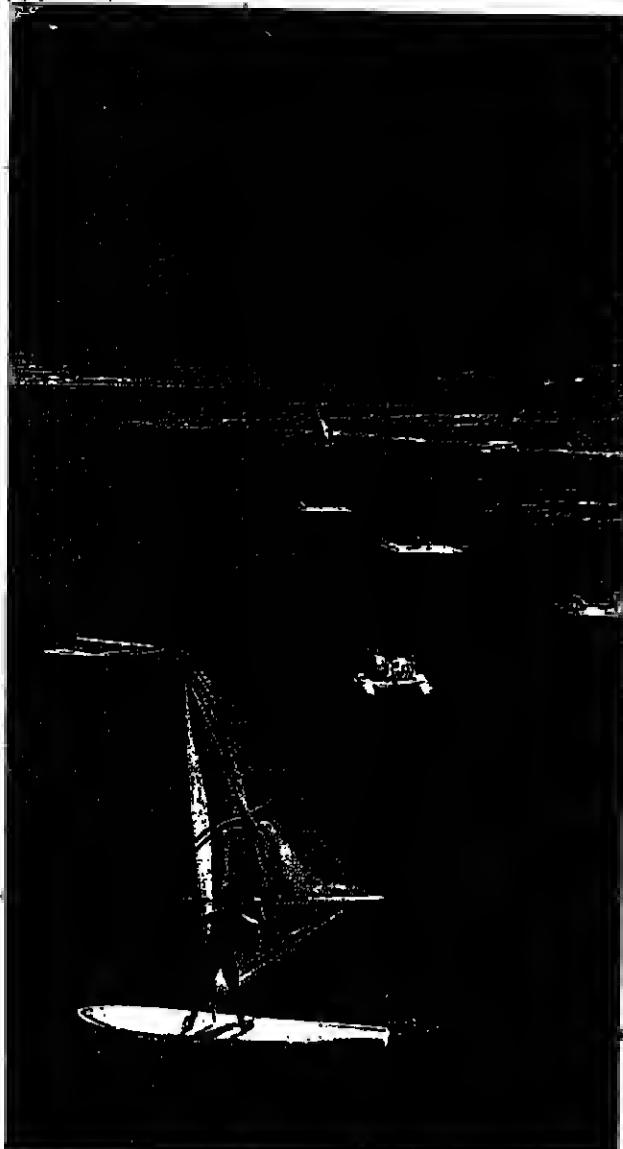


There is no world between the Princes and the Princesses and the common people. This is a quote from the play 'The Princes and the Princesses' by Nicholas Brett. The play is a comedy and is set in a world where the rich and the poor are separated. The play is a satire on the social hierarchy and the power of the wealthy. The play is a comedy and is set in a world where the rich and the poor are separated. The play is a satire on the social hierarchy and the power of the wealthy. The play is a comedy and is set in a world where the rich and the poor are separated. The play is a satire on the social hierarchy and the power of the wealthy.

TRAVEL

Making tracks for the high life

There is a world of a difference between the French side of the Pyrenees and the Spanish. Nicholas Brett and family went camping and followed the sun



Water sport: wind-surfing at the lake resort of Loudenvielle

Dirdre, the American, rolled her eyes and shook her star-spangled head. "Couchette," she hissed the word as though scraping it up from the floor of a parrot's cage. She had apparently just expected an Italian-style couchette — two nights tossed about on some giant compartmental mattress, sharing limited garlicky air-space with total strangers. She was a clean girl who smelt nice. Evidently, for someone from New Canaan, Connecticut, this was the closest she had been to Skid Row.

It was, hardly, what we wanted to hear. We had just missed the deadline for booking superior sleeping arrangements and were about to find our family of four spread between two couchettes on French Railways' Motorail service from Boulogne to Toulouse. As it turned out, any awkwardness about sleeping with strangers was swept away in the excitement of we're-all-in-this-together. We were all intrepid Britons, off on our summer holidays. Each of us had our own bunk, with sheets and blankets. No one had eaten garlic.

For the family abroad on a modest budget, the couchette is worth considering seriously. By the time we reached our destination — St Lary-Soulan in the High Pyrenees — our car had carried us 170 miles. The train had done the rest. Over the nights that followed, the wisdom of our choice was confirmed. Around dusk, the caravan convoys would arrive, sweeping and lurching into the campsite like exotic junks. We would watch as children spilled out of rear doors, their legs asleep, their cheeks streaked from the rows on the road. The men would unstick their shorts from a day of sitting on scorched vinyl upholstery, and stand about together, like wise sea captains, swapping tales of the traffic in Lourdes or the puncture near Tarbes.

While the mates and crew fetched water and struck camp, we watched like royalty from our Eurocamp emplacement. Eurocamp, a Cheshire firm, is the market leader in "soft" camping. Its red and green tents, like huge Wendy houses, pepper the French countryside, each complete with beds (with their own mattresses), fridges, electric lights, cooker, cutlery and crockery.

Whereas some of the coastal

sites seem, as you might expect (watch out for the giveaway brochure words of "fun" and "lively" when choosing a site), ours had generous emplacements — set, among trees. The d'Aure bubbled past our doorstep, shallow and quick-flowing with the pied-courant. As betwixt a family site (more brochures) lights were doused about 10pm and the only sound, to break the silence, was the "zump, zump, zump" of the many zips that set the camper's lot.

The resort of St Lary was a few kilometres away, a gigantic cuckoo-clock of a place that probably looks cute in winter with some snow and brightly-clad skiers. In summer it seemed undressed: a commercialized blot on the landscape where you half expected to be accosted by Heidi's jodeling grandfather. And although the

'There were times when we took to the car, the heater, and the bird books'

snow kept away, the August weather was enough to test even an Englishman's enthusiasm for conversation on all things wet and windy. We betide those of us caught picnicking beside some circuitous High Pyrenean road when the mists arrived. There were times when we took to the car, the heater, and the bird books, while our young daughters — in maces and sweaters frolicked outside, blown about like pieces of yellow litter.

Fortunately, we had stumbled upon an answer in Jock Sturrock's excellent book, *The French Pyrenees* (Faber, £4.95). Like some wise old geography teacher, Sturrock reminded us that the Westlies dumped their moisture on the French side of the Pyrenees and then passed on dry and warm into Spain.

When the bad weather set in, we headed south and upwards on the road out of St Lary. A short drive away is the Tunnel de Bielsa, a three-kilometre road tunnel that takes you under the mountains into Spain.

It is like stepping back through the wardrobe from frozen Narnia: you enter, damp and miserable, and pop out blinking at the swathes of



The high road: pony-trekking on the Cirque de Gavarnie in the French Pyrenees. The weather can be unpredictable, but on a clear day the views are magnificent, with little to disturb the peace.



Leafy backwaters: the waterfall of Lator and the village of Haute Bigorre, nestling in a mountain valley. This is ideal country for bird-watching, or simply taking in French life in the clear air



sunshine. Nor is the transformation merely climatic; while the French Pyrenees are green-pastured and sparkling with mountain flowers, the Spanish side is harsh and parched and craggy.

Here, you imagine, they could make spaghetti westerns and then around the bend, almost on cue, are some of the actors — Spanish border guards in dusty, carry-coloured uniforms and, judging by their afternoon shadows, without even one rusty razor

watched some black redstarts going about their business, and the caves of Médous, where a remarkably pious guide likened every stalactite and stalagmite to the Virgin and child. It was here that I got into a terrible pickle, misreading the French sign "Don't forget your guide" as "Don't lose your guide". Fearing that we were about to enter a particularly difficult grotto, I chivvied the children so enthusiastically that we tumbled over the guide who, waiting for his tip, had stopped in the gloom with hand-stretched out. My eight-year-old daughter took the opportunity to shake it.

If St Lary was a garish disappointment, it did prove an excellent stopping-off point. Twenty kilometres away was Arret, a beautiful French town with old stone, and some half-timbered buildings, all with steeply pitched grey slate roofs in the style of the region.

Here, the four rivers of the area come together and the town is an attractive maze of bridges and riverside walks. Here, too, at the Hotel d'Anglet, we tried M. Aobian's excellent *garbur*, a thick mutton soup, and some cold Jurançon, which as legend has it, was drunk at the baptism of Henry IV.

And while it is a miracle that anyone ventures into congested Lourdes these days, Bagnères-de-Bigorre, the spa town much loved by Napoleon, is well worth a visit. Again we thanked Sturrock the chronicler for the story of an Englishman abroad in the 1830s who, taking great exception to a partisan account of the Battle of Toulouse in a book in Bagnères library, decided to set the record straight.

His corrective scribbles sparked off a duel to the death, with the Englishman triumphing in what must have been "one of the few duels that can ever have been fought for the sake of a marginal note".

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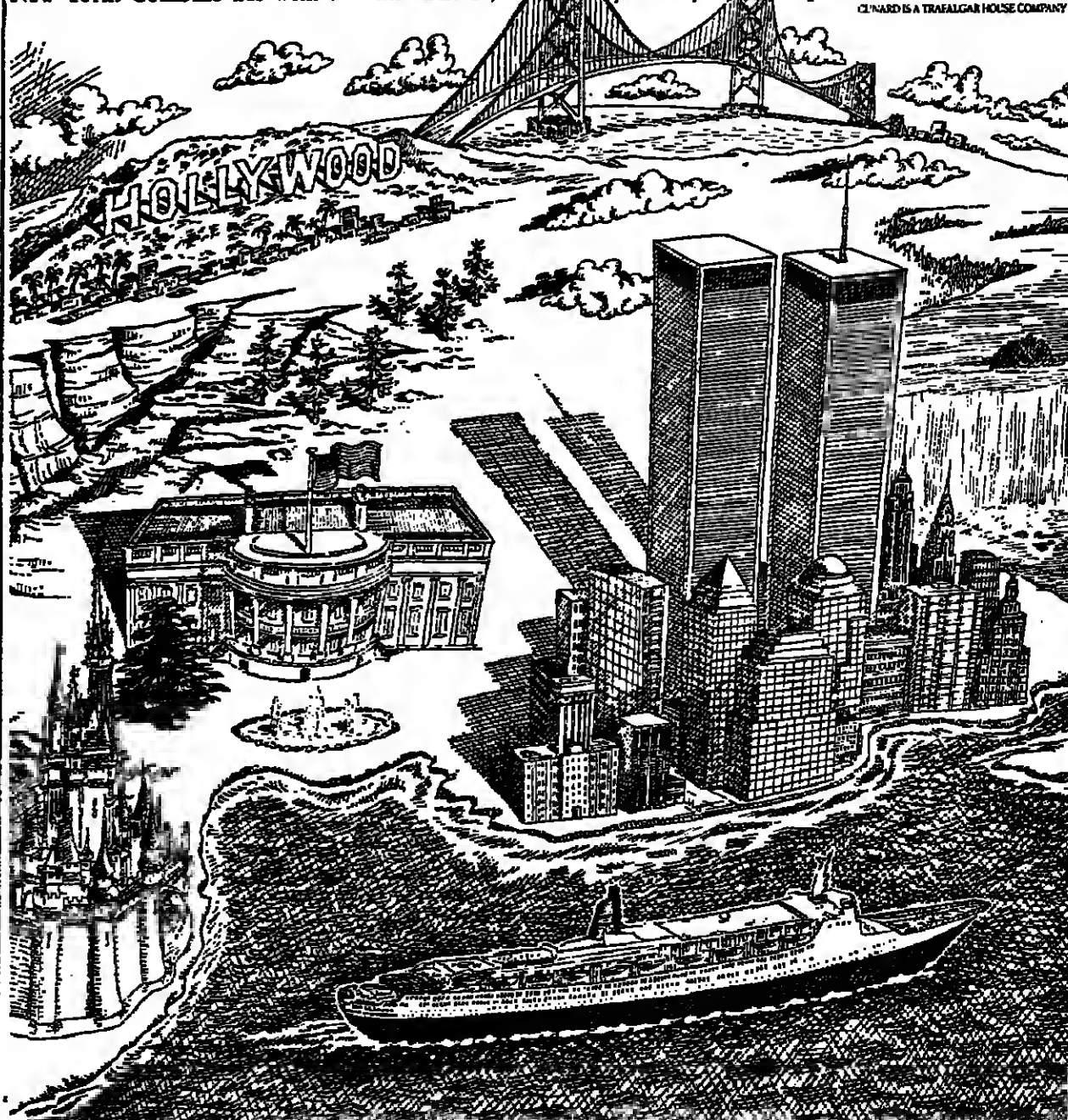
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● Details: French Railways, 179 Piccadilly, London W1V 0BA (01-409 3518).

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● Details: Eurocamp Travel, Tetton Street, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BG (0565 3844).

THE WEEK AHEAD

THEATRE
LONDON

FASCINATING AIDA — A FAREWELL TO SEQUINS: Final appearances of the trio of musical subtrists, Adele Anderson, Dillie Keane and Denise Wharmby. Lyric, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Previews Tues, Wed, Opens Thurs.

THE MARCH ON RUSSIA: New play by David Storey, directed by Lindsay Anderson. Bill Owen and Constance Chapman re-assume the roles of a (now retired) miner and his wife from Storey's *In Celebration*, 20 years ago. Lynton (01-928 2252). Previews from Fri. Opens Apr 6. In repertory.

TEASER — THE STORY OF A STRIPPER: Mick Yates's 1984 study of a part-time striptease performer. Directed for Great Eastern Stage by Amanda Parker. With Katherine Fry. Gate Theatre Club, above Prince Albert pub, 11 Pembroke road, W11 (01-229 0708). Opens Tues.

OUT OF TOWN

CAMBRIDGE: National Student Drama Festival 34th such competition/showcase, featuring 12 new works among the 21 in total, presented at nine venues. Everything from a one-man show to a musical with 53 in the company. Sponsored by *The Sunday Times*. Details from ADC Theatre (0223 359547). Opens Thurs. Until Apr 6.

CAMBRIDGE: *The Late Christopher Bean*: Touring production of Evelyn Williams's 1930s version of a French comedy by René Fauchois. Arts (0223 352000). Opens Mon. LEICESTER: *M. Butterfly*: British premiere of David Hwang's Broadway award-winning. John Dexter directs Anthony Hopkins, Lynn Farleigh, Tsai Chin, G.G. Goel. Transfers to West End. Haymarket (0533 539797). Previews today, Mon. Opens Tues.

LIVERPOOL: No Holds Barred: The Royal Liver Shakespeare Company present Michael Starke and Andrew Schofield with an irreverent collection of excerpts from Shakespeare's works. Touring. Everyman (051 709 4776) Preview Wed (5pm). Opens Thurs.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: A Midsummer Night's Dream: Main house season opens with John Caird's production. John Carlisle, Clare Higgins, David Troughton, Richard McCabe. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 255623). Previews from Thurs. Opens Apr 11. In repertory.

FILMS

WORKING GIRL (15): Attractive, light-hearted social satire from director Mike Nichols, with Melanie Lynskey as the Staten Island secretary who zooms up the Wall Street ladder. With Harrison Ford, Sigourney Weaver. Nominated for

six Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Fri.

NICKY AND GINO (15): Openly sentimental drama about the bond between two brothers — medical student Ray Liotta and mentally retarded Tom Hulce. With Jamie Lee Curtis; directed by Robert M. Young. Cannon Panton Street (01-930 0631), from Fri.

FILMS ON TV

GANDHI (1982): Richard Attenborough's polished and painstaking biopic, winner of several Oscars including one for Ben Kingsley's skilful portrayal of the martyred Indian leader. BBC1, Mon, 7.30-10.30pm.

EDUCATING RITA (1983): Wally Russell's comic fable about an Open University student and her alcoholic tutor, beautifully played by Julie Walters and Michael Caine, and directed by Lewis Gilbert. BBC1, Fri, 9.30-11.20pm.

MIDNIGHT COWBOY (1969): Jon Voight and Dustin Hoffman as the odd couple adrift in New York in John Schlesinger's gripping study of loneliness and survival. BBC2, Fri, 11.20pm-1.15am.

TELEVISION

COMEBACK: Anton Rodgers as a failed suicide trying to rebuild his life in a hospital ward in David Ambrose's funny-tragic drama, based on a real case. Stephen Dillan and Geoffrey Chater play fellow-patients. ITV, Mon, 10.30pm-12.20am.

THE GIFT: Play on One by Colin MacDonald about two young Scottish footballers hoping to make the big time. Look out for Tommy Docherty, playing a harassed manager, and another soccer legend, Jim Baxter, as himself. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-10.45pm.

ARENA: A profile of the Russian-born architect Berthold Lubetkin, best known for the Penguin Pool at London Zoo and a fierce champion of modernism. BBC2, Fri, 9.30-10.20pm.

RADIO

THE PRICE: American stars Richard Dreyfuss and Amy Irving are joined by Timothy West in the first radio production of Arthur Miller's play about estranged brothers who see the death of their father as a means of reconciliation. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-10.15pm.

GOODNIGHT TO FLAMBO: Martin Wade's dramatization of the short but productive life of the Welsh composer William Baines, killed by TB at the age of 23. He is played by Douglas Hodge, with Anne Stallybrass and David Calder as his parents. Radio 3, Tues, 7.30-9pm.

LORD NELSON EXPECTS: Documentary about a seven-day voyage in the *Lord Nelson*, a training ship specially designed for

Designer Cocktail



Writer-director Robert Towne (above, right) who won an Oscar for his script for *Chinatown*, returns with a new film, *Tequila Sunrise*, a heady cocktail of drug dealing, buddy love and glossy backgrounds. Seven years ago, the project was slated for Warren Beatty, then ran aground. Now Mel Gibson (above, left) has landed the main part of Dale McKussie — a middle-man in the drugs trade, anxious to leave the business. Helping to complicate matters are Kurt Russell, a high school chum recently promoted to lieutenant in

the narcotics division, and Michelle Pfeiffer, a restaurateur owner caught in the crossfire. The film may not have the originality of *Chinatown*, but at least it takes Towne back to the crime beat after his 1982 directing debut, *Personal Best*. Towne had hoped to follow *Personal Best* with a *Chinatown* sequel, *Two Jakes*, but that, too, hit problems: Paramount pulled the plug after one day of shooting in 1985. *Tequila Sunrise* opens in London at the Warner West End (01-439-0791), on Friday.

Geoff Brown

the physically handicapped. Radio 4, Thurs, 7.20-8pm.

ROCK

NEW ORDER: Introspective, "Blue Monday" giants of the indie scene. Tonight, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000), tomorrow, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC: Annual gathering of the old country clans, including: today, Tommy Wynn, Boxcar Willie and Bobby Bare; tomorrow, Buck Owens and Keith Whitley; Mon, Wayne Jennings, Jessi Colter and Townes Van Zandt. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

LUTHER VANDROSS: Arguably the top soul voice of the late Eighties. Wed, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Thurs, for six nights, Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

JAZZ

LONDON JAZZ COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA: Avant-garde improvisation from Evan Parker, Howard Riley and colleagues. London Jazzhus, Duke of Wellington, London N1 (01-240 0083) tonight.

TOMMY FLANAGAN: Leading his own trio after years with Ella Fitzgerald. Band On The Wall, Manchester (051 532 6625) Thurs; Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 688 2019) Fri; Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747), from Apr 3.

KENNY DAVEIN: Return of the American swing pianist, co-founder of Soprano Summit. Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722) tonight, Wed, Fri.

JAZZ WARRIORS: All-black, high-velocity big band with soloists including trumpeter Harry Beckett. Snape Maltings, Aldeburgh (07285 3543) tonight.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WORK: Brian Griffin's stunning exhibition of the development over recent years of London's Broadgate site. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London, WC2 (01-930 1552).

ON THE EDGE OF A CITY: Painting by Ken Currie and photographs by Chris Kilip recording the decline of the north east of England in the last decade. Manchester City Art Gallery, Princess St, Manchester (061 236 9422).

GALLERIES

PAST AND PRESENT: Copies and interpretations of old master compositions by contemporary painters who acknowledge a debt to tradition: featuring sketches by, among others, Leon Kossoff, Frank Auerbach, Dennis Grenfield and John Lassore. Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum (041 357 3929), from today.

STEPHEN WILTSHIRE: Remarkable detailed architectural drawings by a 14-year-old autistic boy who works from memory. Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield (0742 734781), from today.

THE FALKLANDS FACTOR: Paintings, photographs and cartoons inspired by the South Atlantic war, with a leaning towards satire and pacifism rather than glorification. Wolverhampton Art Gallery (0902 3112032), from Fri.

JIM DINE: New paintings, sculpture and graphic work. Weddington Galleries, London W1 (01-437 8611), from Thurs.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR: A four-day art jamboree with 100 major galleries showing their best. London Olympia (01-466 1951), from Thurs.

JOHN BELLAMY: Recent paintings and watercolours. Fischer Fine Art, London SW1 (01-839 5942), from Fri.

SIMON PACKARD: Large woodcuts and small watercolours depicting animals by a recent Royal College printmaking graduate. Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London W1 (01-409 3599), from Tues.

DANCE

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: A three-week London season opens with Ashley Faga's new *Soldat*, to Stravinsky's suite from *A Soldier's Tale*, with Cunningham's *Sestet* and Richard Alston's *Strong Language*. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8816), from Wed until Apr 15.

SCOTTISH BALLET: Further performances of Oleg Vinogradov's new interpretation of Petrushka, on a Stravinsky bill with Scottish Opera's *Les Contes de Beaulieu*. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234), tonight, Tues, Thurs and Apr 1.

ROYAL BALLET: Three performances of MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*. Covent Garden (01-240 1066), Mon, Wed, Thurs.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Revivals of Jonathan Miller's productions of *Don Giovanni* (tonight and Thurs at 7pm) and *The Turn of the Screw* (Fri, 7.30pm) with Jane Glover conducting the Mozart and Peter Robinson the Britten. On Wed and Sat, Apr 1, further performances of David Pountney's affectionate new *Falstaff* with Benjamin Luxon in the title role. Coliseum, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Tonight at 8.30pm sees the opening of the final revival of Visconti's classic production of *Don Carlo*, with cast led by Dennis O'Neill, Kira Rylance and Samuel Ramey. Richard Armstrong conducts the work for the first time at Covent Garden. Also on Tues and Fri, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

SCOTTISH OPERA: New production double-bill of Ireland's *Madrigals* and rarely staged, and Scottish Ballet's *Petrushka*. Graeme Jenkins conducts cast including Alberto Remedios and Anne-Marie Owens. Tonight, Tues and Thurs at 7.15pm. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (061 331 1234).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: On tour to Oxford with Giles Haverall's vivacious interpretation of *Sorapita*, and the company's stalwart *La Bohème* revival, with Frances Ginsberg as Mimì. Apollo Theatre, Oxford (0865 244544).

CONCERTS

CHRISTIAN ZACHARIAS: Unusually, this pianist starts with C P E Bach's *Sonata in A minor*, continues with Beethoven's *Sonata Op 81 No 2 "Tanzmeister"*, Schumann's *Fantasie Op 12* and Chopin's *Scherzo No 2*. The Maltings, Snape, Suffolk (072 885 3543). Tomorrow, 3pm.



BOULT TRIBUTE: In the presence of the Prince of Wales, Andrew Davis conducts the Philharmonia in Walton's *Crown Imperial March*, Vaughan Williams's *Symphony No 6* and, with Ida Haendel as soloist, Elgar's *Violin Concerto* — all this in tribute to the late Sir Adrian Boult (above). Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Tues, 7.30pm.

IGOR OSTRAKH: The distinguished Soviet violinist plays Bach's *Sonata BWV 1020*, neBeethoven's *Sonata Op 12 No 3*, Tchaikovsky's *Medtaylor*, Wazman's *Carmen Fantasy*, all with Natalia Zertsalova at the piano. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm.

SVIATOSLAV RICHTER: In the second of his two London recitals the great Russian pianist performs sonatas by Mozart and études by Chopin. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891), Wed, 7.45pm.

BRENDEL'S BRAHMS: More great pianism as Alfred Brendel solos in Brahms's *Piano Concerto No 1* with the RPO under Sir Charles Groves. Later Sir Charles conducts Elgar's *Symphony No 1*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (01-928 8800), Thurs, 7.30pm.

DE PEYER PLAYS: Mátyás Seiber's *Divertimento* and John Ireland's *Fantasy-Sonata* for clarinet and piano are heard from Gervase de Peyer with Gwyneth Pryor at the piano, then de Peyer is joined by the Allegri Quartet for Sir Arthur Bliss's *Clarinet Quintet*. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-835 2141), Thurs, 7.30pm.

Theatre: Tony Patrick, *Film*: Geoff Brown; *Cocaine*: Max Harrison; *Opera*: Hilary Finch; *Rock*: David Sinclair; *Jazz*: Clive Davis; *Dance*: John Percival; *Galleries*: David Lee; *Photography*: Mike Young; *Television*: Radio and Films on TV: Peter Waymark.

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

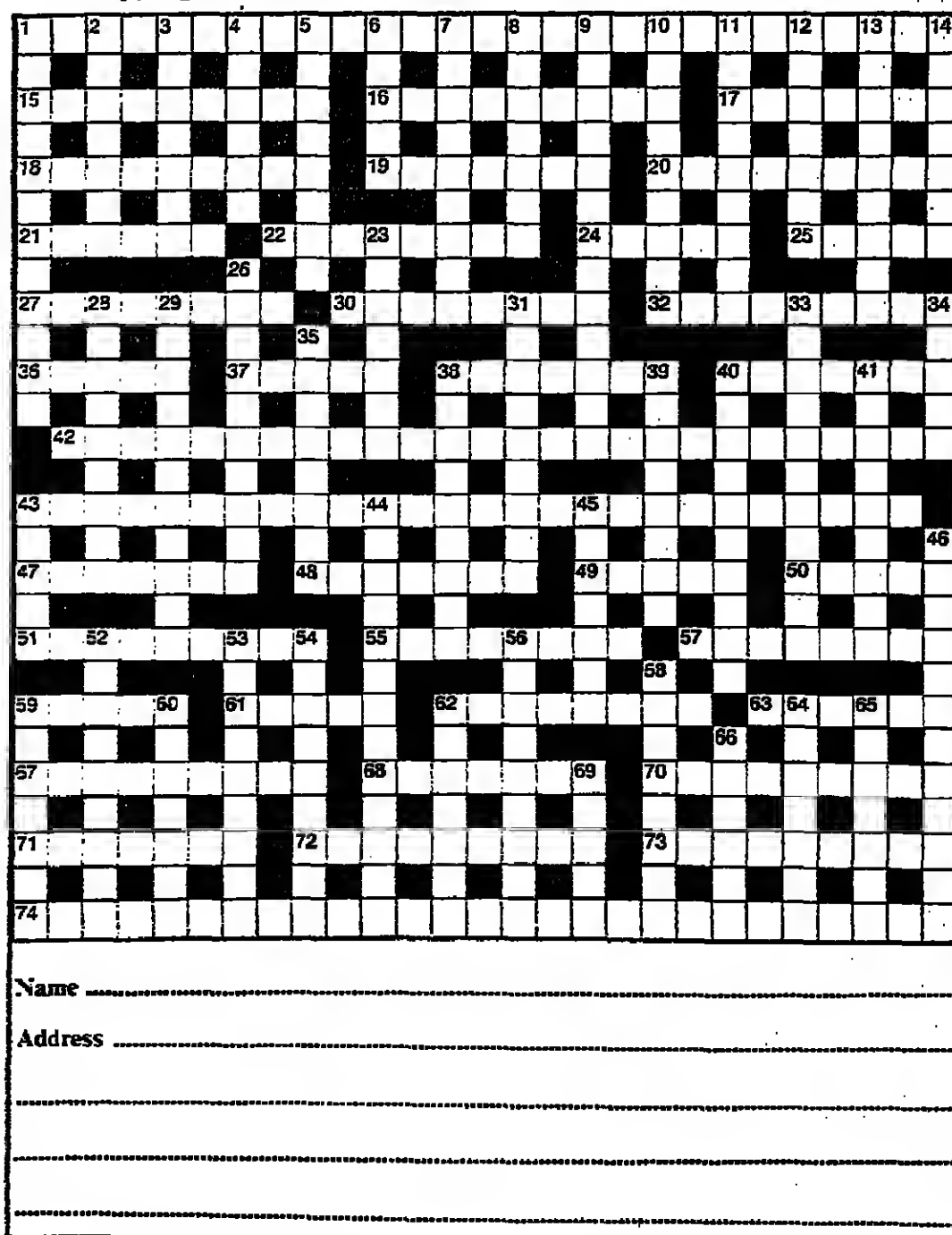
ACROSS

- 1 Walker's prize may be won but not enjoyed by you, it's said (3,4,4,4,3,3,2)
- 15 Succeeds in catching 50 fish — an overwhelming result (9)
- 16 One to cure the failings of this military offender? (9)
- 17 "Music, when soft voices die, —s in the memory" (Shelley) (7)
- 18 Ten as counted in the ring — or what they do to nine? (9)
- 19 Having more space for The Return of Othello? That's right (7)
- 20 Gambler losing his head becomes an embezzler (9)
- 21 Islamic traditions had it before the Hegira initially (6)
- 22 Open late, wild beast shows (8)
- 24 Stuff gold back in Bapista's place (5)
- 25 Namely the spirit shown by players at Twickenham (5)
- 27 Sharpshooter's one employed by Tapley (8)
- 30 Gets going with skills in backward places (6,2)
- 32 Sleep land treated to produce spermato-physis (4-5)
- 36 Swimmer being immature is always out of the money (5)
- 37 It's not so damp in the German state (5)
- 38 Iolanthe for instance liable to provide the charm (7)
- 40 Enzyme that damages man's lip (7)
- 42 Fair and lovable flower girl, guardian of Lancelot's shield (Tennyson) (6,3,4,2,7)
- 43 Heroic but tragic result of someone's military blunder (3,6,2,3,5,7)
- 47 Harsh wind from the south and east (7)
- 48 Dizzi: crusader can't change colour (7)
- 49 Voice's sphere-born harmonious sister (Milton) (5)
- 50 Once more a prophet, we hear (5)
- 51 Like one hanging on to new edition of a hundred and two parts (9)
- 55 Alias Ensign Beverley as the perfect rival (8)
- 57 Temper is by no means extreme (8)
- 59 Firm but brittle — like snow on December 26th once (5)
- 61 Chap performing soprano part in this opera (5)
- 62 Mink undies for female costume embellishment? (8)
- 63 Practice dropping 11 for a change in this predicament (6)
- 67 Disembodied spirit makes the mature 36 uncommonly mad (9)
- 68 Townsman brings food back to her (7)
- 70 Dozen envelops German city in thunder (9)
- 71 Fancy getting a soldier into mine development? (7)
- 72 Greek slain by Achilles in the right locations (9)
- 73 Trumpet blast when army managed to take Ireland's royal hill (9)
- 74 Unhappy verdict of famous physicians on Henry King's complaint (5,2,2,4,3,4,7)

DOWN

- 1 Fusillanious workshop striker is seen in flight (12)
- 2 Memorandum is in German and so not observed (7)
- 3 Attack a sailor, say? (7)
- 4 Novel headgear (6)
- 5 Be put in complete confinement for deviating from the norm (8)
- 6 The bilingual churchman (5)
- 7 Not in the pink — or the red at Wembley? (3-6)
- 8 Set procedure, arranging tour in the Orient (7)
- 9 Pharaoh toting drunkenly with cannibals (13)
- 10 "A chorus-ending from —" (Browning) (9)
- 11 Training period for US Intelligence men, note, after All Saints' Day (9)
- 12 Give me back a large pill for blood trouble (7)
- 13 Maybe a riot after tart rejected in a restaurant (9)
- 14 One of the more tricky propositions (7)
- 15 Loiters in a Portuguese resort (7)
- 16 Its fruit would appear to be somewhat wicked? (6-4)
- 18 Merry-makers showing lapel material about forty-five inches (9)
- 19 Gets rid of bends in narrows, say (11)
- 21 Fighters thus ordered up (message thus protected) (9)
- 23 Record in retrospect tragedian's revised version of The Bear for instance (11)
- 24 The each-way principle (5)
- 25 Means of exposing mendacity, roughly speaking? Extremely frivolous (8)
- 28 Fish and chips cooked with lard (9)
- 29 Job's Dickensian horses (8)
- 30 Plain creature — I order a pig to be given treatment (7-3)
- 41 Transpentine show was sensational! (9)
- 43 Many ensnared by this dissolute woman (5)
- 44 French palace of fine notable construction on gold foundation (13)
- 45 Measure by state against toxic reform (7)
- 46 About to be taken in by a French leonager perhaps — incorrigible (12)
- 52 Retreat disorderly without one, 'e appears to keep say-ing (9)
- 53 She's devilishly persuasive (9)
- 54 Prison a hindrance to an artist (9)
- 56 Movement putting domestic deity over Jews' quarter (9)
- 58 Shower forecast for the wedding? (8)
- 59 Subtle to lose a pound to the shopkeeper (7)
- 60 "Taffeta phrases, silken terms —" (Love's Labour's Lost) (7)
- 62 Tell in advance that the sum charged includes mineral aggregates (7)
- 64 Those paying a lawyer about fifty-one cents (7)
- 65 Graduate is received by a Buddhist: priest in state (7)
- 66 65's southern neighbour, no end flowery (6)
- 69 Make new arrangement of trees (5)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, April 10. Entries should be sent to The Times Easter Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, April 15.



SOLUTION TO NO 1829 (yesterday's concise crossword)
ACROSS: 1 Amire 4 Frolic 9 Keratin 10 Harem 15 Island 18 Irrigate 20 Fare 22 Zaire 23 Retreat 25 Linger 26 Frothy
DOWN: 1 Ask 2 Terrain 3 Rate 5 Rehearse 6 Lurid 7 Cambridge 8 Snood 11 Schnitzel 13 Gangrene 16 Adamant 17 Story 19 Reign 21 Star 24 Stay

SOLUTION TO NO 1824 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Script 5 Panic 8 Err 9 Grovel 10 Actual 11 Lawn 12 Take over 14 Hoser 15 Tissue 16 Reveller 18 Burn 19 Vision 21 Social 22 Cut 23 Allah 24 Shoddy
DOWN: 2 Ciriaco de Mita 3 Inventive 4 Telstar 5 Frank 6 Net 7 Chateaubriand 13 Oso Bucco 15 Thrusts 17 Lunch 20 Ill

The winners of prize concise No 1824 are Roger Jeffery of Harry's Cottage, Manor Road, Selgrave, nr Banbury, Oxfordshire; and Mrs E. Coupe, Queenscourt Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire.

NO 1824-6

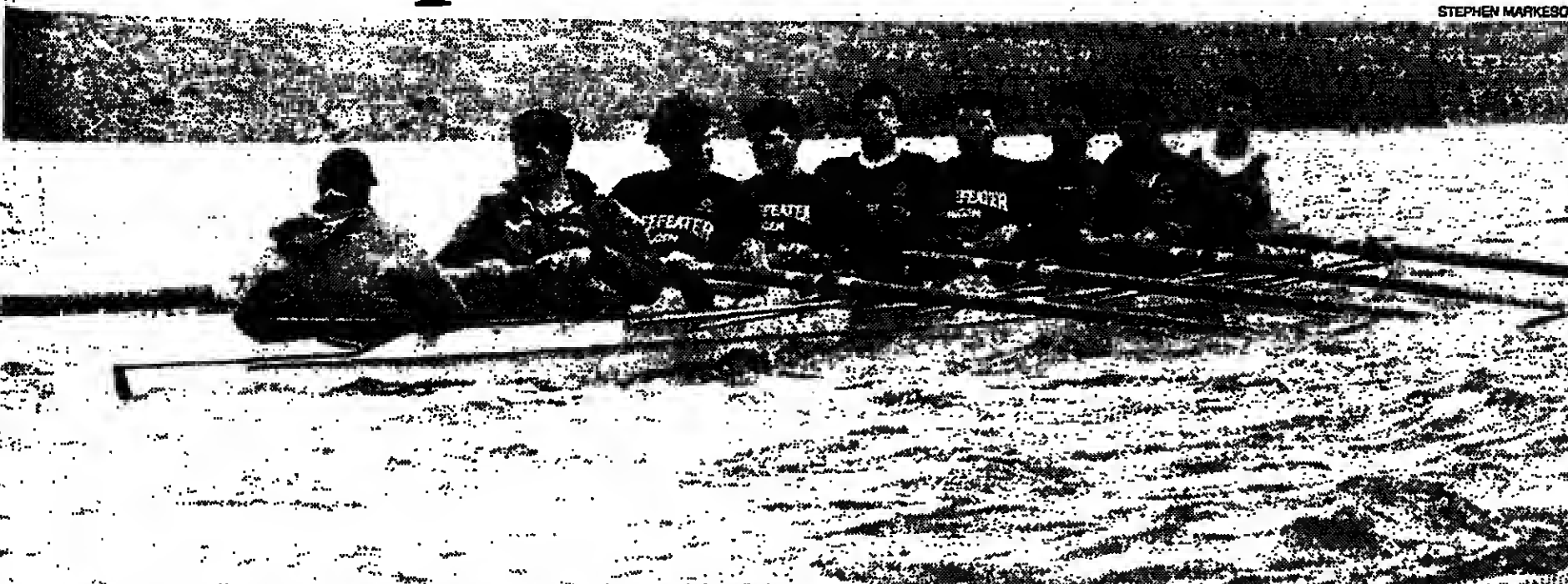
Waves 1

Cambridge out as the heavy favourite

Today's Boat Race

Putterless golf

Waves put Boat Race at risk



Roughing it: The Oxford boat ploughing through heavy water on the Tideway yesterday as the crew practised for today's Boat Race, when conditions are likely just as inhospitable

Cambridge start out as the heavy favourites

By Jim Railton

Cambridge, with the second heaviest crew of all time, go into today's 135th Boat Race as the clear favourites. If the powerful Cambridge crew settle into their stride smoothly then Oxford will have little chance of success. Their only hope would appear to be a rebellious Tideway that would unsettle the Light Blues and stop them applying the power advantage they enjoy from being almost 11lb a man heavier.

Yesterday the conditions on the Tideway were frightful, with the high wind blowing against the tide and producing white waves that could well sink the boats if they persist with the race. There is a chance we could see the Boat Race being run tomorrow, Monday or even Tuesday unless there is a change in the weather.

Cambridge have grown in stature since their late arrival on the Tideway and are favourites to take the Beefeater Gin Trophy. They were too big for their boat originally but appear to have reconstructed it successfully. They worked extremely hard at Ely before arriving on the Tideway a week last Thursday. Since then their heavy machine has purred.

Their performance today may well hinge on the work of their freshman, Toby Backhouse, who stands 6ft 8in and at the official weigh-in last Monday tipped the scales at 10st 11lb — a Boat Race record. Backhouse had a back problem during pre-Tideway training but appears to have recovered well.

Cambridge are thirsty for revenge and today have five Blues on board, compared

with Oxford's three. The only winning Blue in the Cambridge boat is Ian Clarke, while Oxford have Jonathan Searle, a world junior gold medal winner, Michael Gaffney and Paul Gleeson who have had the pleasure of reaching Mortlake first in a Boat Race.

When Oxford hit their stride they are hyper efficient. They have a fine engine room in Jonathan Searle, a Rhodes scholar, and Michael Gaffney, with Olympic oarsman Terence Dillon at five. They, rather than young Richard Thorp, will provide Oxford's main attack today.

Oxford have been exorcising their doubts, conducting brilliant trials in December and a good win in the Reading head-of-the-river race. While there were question marks over their recent Tideway tests against London University and the Nottinghamshire lightweights, Oxford were speedy when they thrashed Isis, their reserve crew, by six lengths during final Boat Race training. They are a good crew of true grit.

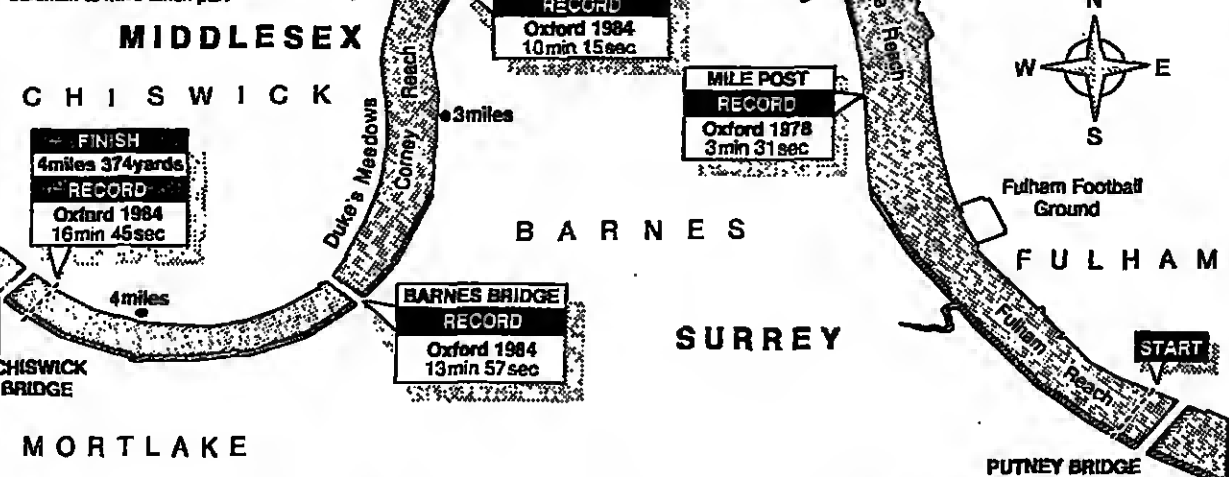
For the first time both crews will be steered by women. Cambridge's Harvard graduate Leigh Weiss and Oxford's Alison Norrish are likely to be in aggressive moods. It could well be a race decided under the sharp eye of the umpire, Ronnie Howard.

Leigh is constantly in command of Cambridge, while Oxford once again appear to have a committee of coaches, with words of wisdom supplied by Mike Spracklen, the Olympic coach and other Olympians.

TELEVISION COVERAGE: BBC1: Grand National 12.15-5.00pm; Eurosport 7.30pm

135th Boat Race

Of the 134 races rowed Cambridge have won 69, Oxford 64, with one dead heat on March 24 1877 in a time of 24min 58sec. Both crews have a woman as cox for the first time. Toby Backhouse, of Cambridge, at 10st 11lb, will be the heaviest oarsman to have taken part.



A contest all the better for its return to a traditional balance

COMMENTARY

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

The Boat Race today has just about the right balance for an undergraduate sport: two crews each embellished by no more than two graduates, plus a total of three Americans. Cambridge's average age is 22½, Oxford's under 22.

What is glaringly overlooked by both Boris Rankov, in his recent letter to Dan Topolski on the 1987 American Matiny, and Topolski himself, in his highly subjective book on that race, *True Blue*, is that the Boat Race is intended to be, and should be, a contest primarily between undergraduates. Today's is.

This does not necessarily weaken the event, or threaten its international status and sponsors' interest. The form line, taken through the Head of the River, shows that the Cambridge crew is probably on a level with national standards. It is imperative that the Boat Race should be a shop window for British rowing, not an American invitation.

Rankov, fine oarsman that he was, seemingly still does not understand this. He saw nothing illogical in taking part in his record sixth race when a senior lecturer and apparently still considers that it would have been a laudable objective to try to keep the 1987 rebels on board for an allegedly "greatest crew ever." No doubt Oxford could find some mature-student course for a handful of West Indian and Australian Test cricketers, but no one could pretend the resultant team at Lord's would be representing Oxford.

The irony of the revolt which confronted Topolski

Regatta, recently wrote to the Master of his old Cambridge College, Jesus, recommending more recognition by admissions tutors of a well-established phenomenon: that sportsmen obtain better-than-average degrees and superior job-fulfillment compared with many undergraduates who are exclusively academic-orientated. Ask employers.

Professor Colin Renfrew's response to Burroughs was disappointingly negative. Yet the prospects for genuine undergraduate races are by no means forlorn, as today may prove, and as Cambridge regularly proved with young crews repeatedly overpowered during Oxford's unbroken dominance from 1976 to 1985.

"I have a feeling that there should be a maximum age of, say, 25," Burroughs says.

The women making history, page 48

"Though it's possible that we are passing through a (graduate) phase that has already gone. What is important is that the Boat Race should build up our own oarsmen for the future, rather than Americans or Australians. When it comes to rugby, I know it's another matter, but with cricket, I see no harm in the universities accepting a lesser standard by playing the Minor Counties."

Burroughs believed so much in the undergraduate ethic that when he was Cambridge president in 1939, following two years in successful boats, he declined to select the Oxford stroke who had come as a

Liverpool put a new tune to an old song

By Clive White

It is perverse that Liverpool, the team which has dominated the League championship *ad nauseam* during the past two decades, should be helping to enliven this season's competition with a spirited late challenge which may yet end in the Merseyside club collecting their eighteenth title.

They are, without doubt, the team in form, as their ominous 3-1 victory at Coventry, their sixth in six games, on Wednesday confirmed; 21 goals scored and only three in reply. Maximum points from their two games over Easter, away against Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow, and at home against Derby County on Monday, could put a new complexion on the championship.

Arsenal will be thankful today to get away from Highbury, where their once vibrant championship hopes have slithered in the morass of their appalling pitch, failing to win any of their last three games. The propensity of home fixtures, which at one time it seemed might swing the title their way, has become a handicap.

Fortunately for them, their away form has been outstanding, but they meet a Southampton team at The Dell who are equally desperate for a change in fortune after 18 games without a win. The second division seems to be drawing them like a magnet and it may take more than the £950,000 that Chris Nicholl, the club's manager, has hurriedly spent this week on Adams, from Leeds United, and Horne, from Portsmouth, to keep them up.

Seldom can it have happened that the two leading clubs in pursuit of the champ-

ionship have each been more at home away from home. Not that the form of Norwich City at Carrow Road has been poor. Indeed, they have lost only once there in their last 13 league and cup games. But they are marginally a better side away from Carrow Road where their supporters have been slow to accept the team's methodical style.

Newcastle United, second from bottom and who go there today, might prove to be not quite the soft touch some people imagine.

Whatever the outcome, this season's championship has already been one of the most exciting in recent times and few have contributed more to that end than Millwall, who must surely now have shed their sinister image. They have exceeded their wildest dreams by continuing at the forefront of the first division since the start of the season.

Their third place, though, is under threat today. They Merseyside; Everton stand before them at Goodison Park, waiting to take advantage of any slip. Colin Harvey, angered by Everton's capitulation at Newcastle, has threatened to make changes which may include the demolition of Cottee, the England forward, who has scored just twice in his last 17 appearances.

That would, indeed, be perverse on a day when his old side-kick, McAvennie, makes his reappearance for West Ham United. McAvennie, resigned from Celtic for £1.25 million in midweek, will be expected to start repaying that huge investment in his goalscoring potential against Aston Villa at Villa Park.

UEFA fines Hearts

Geneva (Reuters) — Heart of Midlothian, the Scottish Premier Division side, have been fined 100,000 Swiss francs (\$62,500) by UEFA for allowing the home leg of their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich to be televised live in West Germany.

The fine, a record for television transmission offences, was imposed by UEFA yesterday after complaints by the West German Football Association (DFB).

Hearts have also been barred from selling the television rights to any matches they play in their next European competition and will also be liable for any damages incurred by the DFB and West German team, VfB Stuttgart.

Hearts have until midnight on Tuesday to appeal.

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Putterless golf from Stelten

From John Hennessy
La Grande Motte, France

The Mistral misfired, after all, and the Flamant Roses (Flamingoes) course, here, appropriately, yielded a host of birdies and quite a few eagles on the first day of the AGF Open golf tournament.

But, if the masterpiece that the eminent American architect, Robert Trent Jones, has created was humbled, it was a compatriot of his who wrought most devastation.

He was Ron Stelten, who recorded five birdies and an improbable eagle for a course record 65, seven under par. With a few players still out on the course he led by three shots from a trio from Britain — Sam Torrance, Mark Davis and Andrew Chanley. The holder, David Llewellyn, is a shot further back.

Stelten went through an extraordinary passage, having started at the 9th, which induced him later to remark,

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	407	4	10	498	5
2	411	4	11	419	4
3	516	5	12	383	3
4	352	4	13	166	3
5	135	3	14	399	4
6	465	5	15	410	4
7	558	5	16	151	3
8	174	3	17	495	5
9	430	4	18	399	4

Out 3 448 36 In 3 258 36
Total par 6 704 Par 72

with good reason: "I was four under par after five holes and then I started hitting the greens."

At the 12th (303 yards) he holed a 9-iron from 110 yards; at the next (182 yards), having missed the green with a four-iron, he found a bad lie in a bunker and holed out with a pitching wedge; then at the 14th (139 yards) his nine-iron rolled off the green and he chipped in from 15 feet. Thus on three successive holes he had had no need of his putter. After that, he was, by comparison, boringly conventional, putting for birdie

Bruno sparring partner is next for Mason

Terry Armstrong, a sparring partner for Frank Bruno during the build-up to his bout with Mike Tyson last month, is the new opponent for Bruno's stablemate, Gary Mason, next Wednesday.

Mason, the unbeaten British heavyweight champion, was originally due to face Harry Terrell at Wembley, but the ageing American was ruled unsuitable by the British Boxing Board of Control. Armstrong, from Cincinnati, stayed with Bruno for a month in Phoenix and then the final two weeks in Las Vegas.

But the board still has to approve Armstrong as an opponent and this is not a formality. "We will be taking a close look at his record and then deciding whether to approve the fight," the board secretary, John Morris, said.

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Handwritten signature and date: 27/2/89

Ferrari Formula One fightback

The starting roar of the engines at Rio tomorrow marks the end of the quieter turbos and creates a milestone in motor racing. John Blunsden previews the chances of a return to triumph by the once great Italian team

As 26 cars and drivers leave the starting grid of the Jacarapaga circuit near Rio de Janeiro tomorrow afternoon, in a deafening crescendo of noise and the inevitable cloud of tyre and exhaust smoke, a new era of Formula One racing will have begun. The muted voice of turbo-charged engines has been silenced, their cars con-

signed to the motor racing museums after a career that began in 1977. In their place is a series of lighter-weight cars of outstanding aerodynamic efficiency and nimbleness powered by a new breed of 3½-litre normally aspirated and very loud V8, V10 and V12 engines. In recent years there have been too many changes of Formula One rules, although some were essential, but a period of stability has finally arrived. Whether the sport's governing body, FISA, really will give its 3½-litre formula a clear run until the turn of the century, as promised, only time will tell.

Goodyear, whose tyres exclusively kept the wheels of Grand Prix racing in motion for the past two seasons, are again confronted by a rival in Pirelli, whose return means that specially-made qualifying tyres are also back and that 1988 practice lap times will soon look positively pedestrian. It also means that the struggling hopefuls towards the rear of the line-up can no longer expect to use the same tyres as the contracted teams up front.

Yet there is no shortage of newcomers. This year, 20 teams have assembled 39 cars and drivers, meaning that at every one of the 16 meetings 13 of them will fail to qualify. Formula One life will be tougher than ever for those at the back.

In a sense it is tougher still for a team that has once been at the top but has slipped. Lotus and Tyrrell are both in this category, but so is Ferrari. And it is on the Italian team in particular that many eyes will be focused this season as it strives to recapture some of its former greatness.

The charisma is still there, unaffected by Enzo Ferrari's death last year, but winning pace has been lacking, mainly because of the excessive fuel consumption of Ferrari's turbo-charged V6 engine. Gerhard Berger gave some heroic driving performances last season, and was the only man to interrupt the otherwise complete domination by McLaren's Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost. However, the Austrian's emotional victory on Ferrari home territory at Monza in September was a success inherited rather than won, after Senna had had one of his occasional lapses of judgment and crashed out of the lead. Ferrari must be pleased that the turbo years are over. They ran turbo-charged engines for eight seasons, during which they scored just 15 victories. By comparison, McLaren and Williams, which both ran turbos for little more than five seasons, claimed 40 and 23 wins respectively over the shorter period.

If Ferrari has a trademark other than the famous Prancing Horse symbol, it is the 12-cylinder engine, around which so many past successes in single-seater and sports car racing have been built. It was no surprise, therefore, that the team was tempted to take the 12-cylinder route in planning a new 3½-litre normally aspirated engine for 1989, despite the constraints that its extra weight and bulk compared with the V8 and V10 alternatives imposed on

the car designer, John Barnard, has had a busy time. He had been brought in by Enzo Ferrari to take charge of engineering matters at Maranello, to establish a satellite design office and component factory near Guildford, Surrey, and to design the next-generation Ferrari Grand Prix challenger.

Today he no longer has responsibility for the Italian end of the operation and is free to accelerate the development of the Ferrari 640, the second Formula One car he has designed since leaving McLaren late in 1987. The first, the 639, built last year to help with the development of the new V12 engine and the ingenious electronically controlled gearbox attached to it, will continue to be used this year as a development car at Ferrari's private test track at Fiorano. This is where Nigel Mansell

has spent much of his time since joining the team and establishing with his long-time friend, Berger, a partnership second only to that of Senna and Prost in its potential.

The 640, which was first seen last month and is the team's definitive 1989 race car, looks superficially similar to the interim 639, but is different in many details. As with the earlier car, its most radical feature is the replacement of the traditional gear lever by a pair of arms linked to a central pivot behind the steering wheel and within reach of the driver's fingers

when he holds the wheel. The driver simply operates the lever with his right hand for upward and with his left hand for downward changes without having to remove his grip from the wheel rim.

He sits considerably lower in the 640, which is aerodynamically more efficient, has improved cooling capacity and a different distribution of fuel in three tanks to improve the weight balance. The latest car has a very slim nose hiding a novel and compact front suspension, which does away with conventional coil springs. A form of active suspension is expected to be introduced later in the year. The bodywork behind the cockpit is also much slimmer and the 640 is said to be quite close to the 500-kilogram minimum weight limit.

It is no secret that Ferrari's between-seasons test programme has had difficulties and disappointments. But early reliability problems with various electronic components seem to have been overcome, and solid progress is now being made to improve the engine's initially disappointing power output.

Barnard remains quietly optimistic: "We are fortunate in having considerable resources, as a result of which we should have the ability to introduce significant improvements on a regular basis throughout the season. For example, I expect the cars we run in the second race, at Imola, to be considerably different from our specification for Brazil."

He also expects much from the team's drivers. "Of course, I have worked with Gerhard for more than a year and I know how good he is, but it has been very revealing working with Nigel," he says.

"Like Berger, he is very quick indeed - it's probably too early to tell whether or not he is actually any quicker, but the important thing is they are certain to bring out the best in

each other. Meanwhile, what has particularly impressed me about Nigel is his determination. He will work tirelessly to improve the car's performance until, as he puts it, he can 'really lean on it'. When he gets it to that state, he'll summon up all his personal qualities and find that extra bit of time out of himself."

Mansell, far from being

frustrated by the work needed to turn the 640 into a race winner, seems stimulated by the challenge. Unlike some drivers, he enjoys testing and improving the product - just as well, because 32 separate test sessions are already logged in his 1989 diary.

At Ferrari he no longer has the distraction of personal sponsors, who may have made

him a wealthy man but understandably have also made heavy demands on his time. He has a much more relaxed attitude towards the World Championship. Of course, he still wants to win it but it is no longer an obsession. He has established his place among the élite of contemporary Grand Prix drivers, which is sufficient for the time being.

Having driven for relatively small teams, Mansell is still coming to terms with the extent of Ferrari's facilities, and clearly he has become intoxicated by the unique atmosphere permeating everything at Maranello.

Some drivers, who have fulfilled a burning ambition to drive for Ferrari have quickly become frustrated by the reality. Mansell, however, shows no signs of becoming one of them.

There have been a lot of organizational changes at team headquarters since Enzo Ferrari's death, and Mansell is impressed by the quality of the high-flyers who have been put in to run the show. In this he is not alone.

Last summer, when it was clear that the life of motor racing's most charismatic figure was within a few days of its end, I put it to the McLaren director, Ron Dennis, that sooner or later his team's overwhelming domination of the Grand Prix scene would be effectively challenged.

"From which direction would you most expect this challenge to emerge?" I asked him. "From Ferrari," came his unhesitating reply.

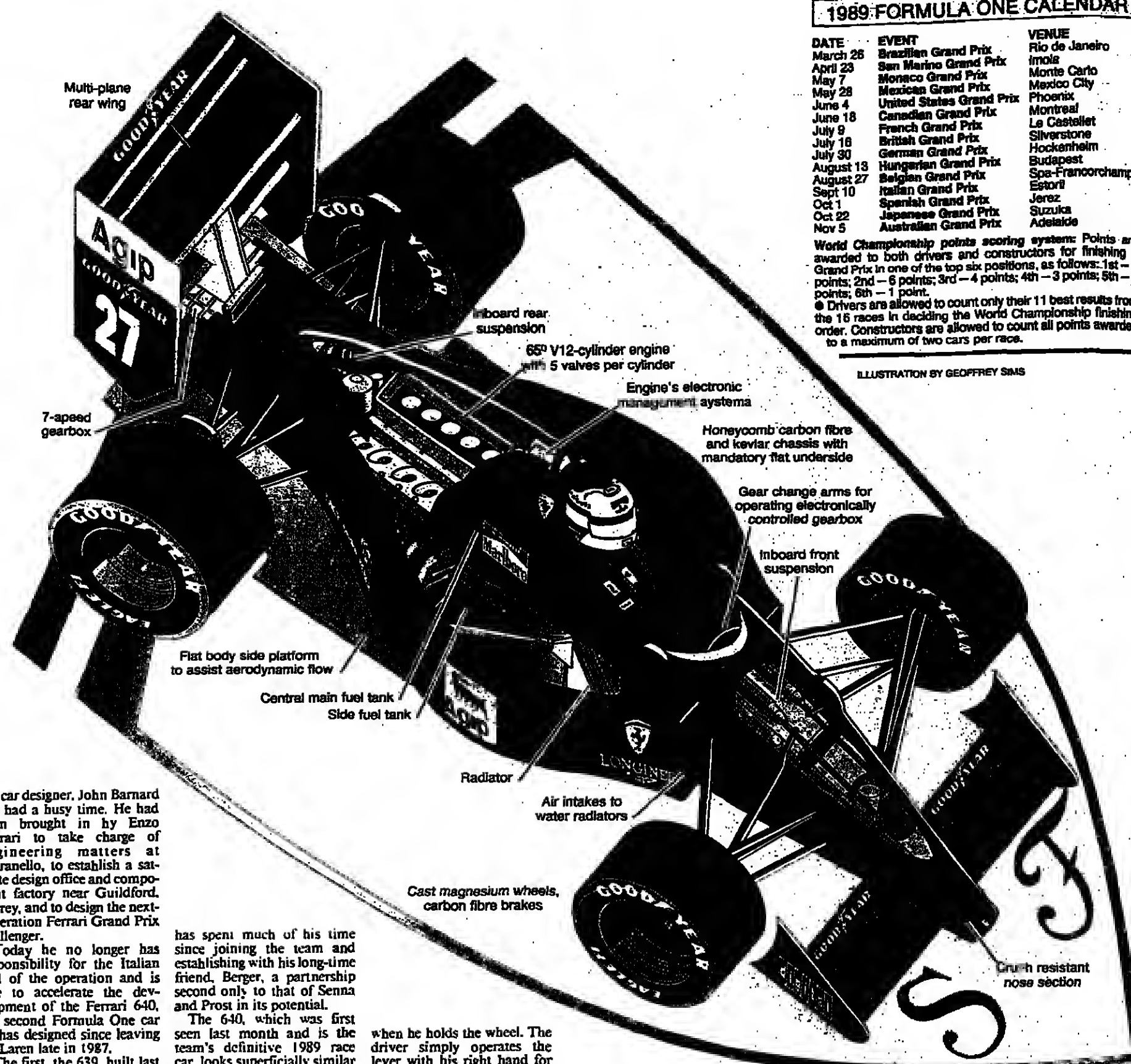
Mansell may well be starting the hardest working year he has ever experienced as a Grand Prix driver. But in doing so he may also be laying the foundations for his greatest personal success.

1989 FORMULA ONE CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
March 26	Brazilian Grand Prix	Rio de Janeiro
April 23	San Marino Grand Prix	Imola
May 7	Mexican Grand Prix	Monterrey
May 28	French Grand Prix	Monaco
June 4	United States Grand Prix	Phoenix
June 18	Canadian Grand Prix	Montreal
July 9	British Grand Prix	Silverstone
July 16	German Grand Prix	Hockenheim
July 30	Hungarian Grand Prix	Budapest
August 13	Belgian Grand Prix	Spa-Francorchamps
August 27	Italian Grand Prix	Monza
Sept 10	Spanish Grand Prix	Jerez
Oct 1	Japanese Grand Prix	Suzuka
Oct 22	Australian Grand Prix	Adelaide

World Championship points scoring system: Points are awarded to both drivers and constructors for finishing a Grand Prix in one of the top six positions, as follows: 1st - 9 points; 2nd - 6 points; 3rd - 4 points; 4th - 3 points; 5th - 2 points; 6th - 1 point. Drivers are allowed to count only their 11 best results from the 16 races in deciding the World Championship finishing order. Constructors are allowed to count all points awarded to a maximum of two cars per race.

ILLUSTRATION BY GEOFFREY SIMS



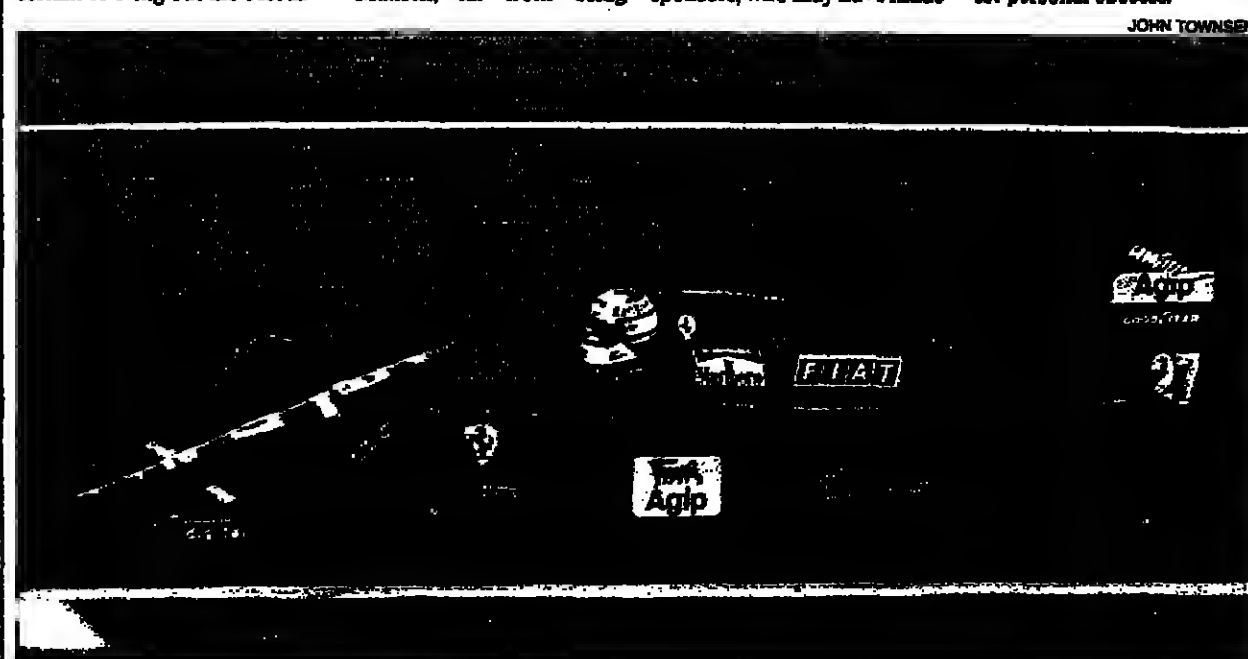
1989 FORMULA ONE LINE-UP

DRIVER	CHASSIS-ENGINE	MAIN SPONSOR
1 Ayrton Senna (Br) Age 29	McLaren-Honda V10	Marlboro
2 Alain Prost (Fr) 34	McLaren-Honda V10	Marlboro
3 Jonathan Palmer (GB) 32	Tyrrell-Ford DFR V8	Canon
4 Michele Alboreto (It) 32	Tyrrell-Ford DFR V8	Canon
5 Thierry Boutsen (Bel) 31	Williams-Renault V10	Canon
6 Riccardo Patrese (It) 34	Williams-Renault V10	Canon
7 Martin Brundle (GB) 26	Brabham-Judd V8	Bioptron
8 Stefano Modena (It) 25	Brabham-Judd V8	Bioptron
9 Derek Warwick (GB) 34	Arrows-Ford DFR V8	USF&G
10 Eddie Cheever (US) 31	Arrows-Ford DFR V8	USF&G
11 Nelson Piquet (Br) 36	Lotus-Judd V8	Camel
12 Satoru Nakajima (Japan) 36	Lotus-Judd V8	Camel
13 Mauricio Gugelmin (Br) 25	March-Judd V8	Leyton Ha
14 Ivan Capelli (It) 25	March-Judd V8	Leyton Ha
15 Piercarlo Ghinzani (It) 37	Osella-Ford DFR V8	Fondmet
16 Nicola Larini (It) 25	Osella-Ford DFR V8	Fondmet
17 Alessandro Nannini (It) 28	Benetton-Ford V8	7-Up
18 Johnny Herbert (GB) 24	Benetton-Ford V8	7-Up
19 Andrea de Cesaris (It) 29	Dallara-Ford DFR V8	Marlboro
20 Alex Caffi (It) 25	Dallara-Ford DFR V8	Marlboro
21 Pierluigi Martini (It) 27	Minardi-Ford DFR V8	Minardi
22 Luis Salas (Sp) 29	Minardi-Ford DFR V8	Minardi
23 Rene Arnoux (Fr) 40	Ligier-Ford DFR V8	Loto
24 Olivier Grouillard (Fr) 30	Ligier-Ford DFR V8	Loto
25 Nigel Mansell (GB) 34	Ferrari V12	Marlboro
26 Gerhard Berger (Austria) 29	Ferrari V12	Marlboro
27 Yannick Dalmas (Fr) 27	Lola-Lamborghini V12	Calmeis
28 Philippe Alliot (Fr) 34	Lola-Lamborghini V12	Calmeis
29 Roberto Moreno (Br) 30	Coloni-Ford DFR V8	Coloni
30 Pierre-Henri Raphanel (Fr) 27	Coloni-Ford DFR V8	Coloni
31 Gregor Foitek (Cz) 24	EuroBrun-Ford V8	West
32 Aguri Suzuki (Japan)	Zakspeed-Yamaha V8	West
33 Bernd Schneider (WG) 24	Zakspeed-Yamaha V8	West
34 Stefan Johansson (Sw) 32	Onyx-Ford DFR V8	Moneytr'n
35 Bertrand Gachot (Bel) 26	Onyx-Ford DFR V8	Moneytr'n
36 Christian Danner (WG) 26	Rial-Ford DFR V8	Marlboro
37 Volker Weidner (WG) 26	Rial-Ford DFR V8	Marlboro
38 Philippe Streiff (Fr) 33	AGS-Ford DFR V8	Camel
39 Joachim Winkelhock (WG) 28	AGS-Ford DFR V8	Camel

* These 13 drivers have to take part in an early Friday morning pre-qualifying session from which the fastest four will join the remaining 26 drivers in the four main practice and race-qualifying periods.

† Suffered serious injuries in crash during Rio tests on March 18. Tyres: The following teams will run on Pirelli: Brabham, Coloni, BMS Dallara, EuroBrun, Minardi, Osella and Zakspeed. All other teams will run on Goodyear tyres.

Responding to the challenge: Nigel Mansell, here test-driving at Jerez, has already logged 32 test sessions in his 1989 diary



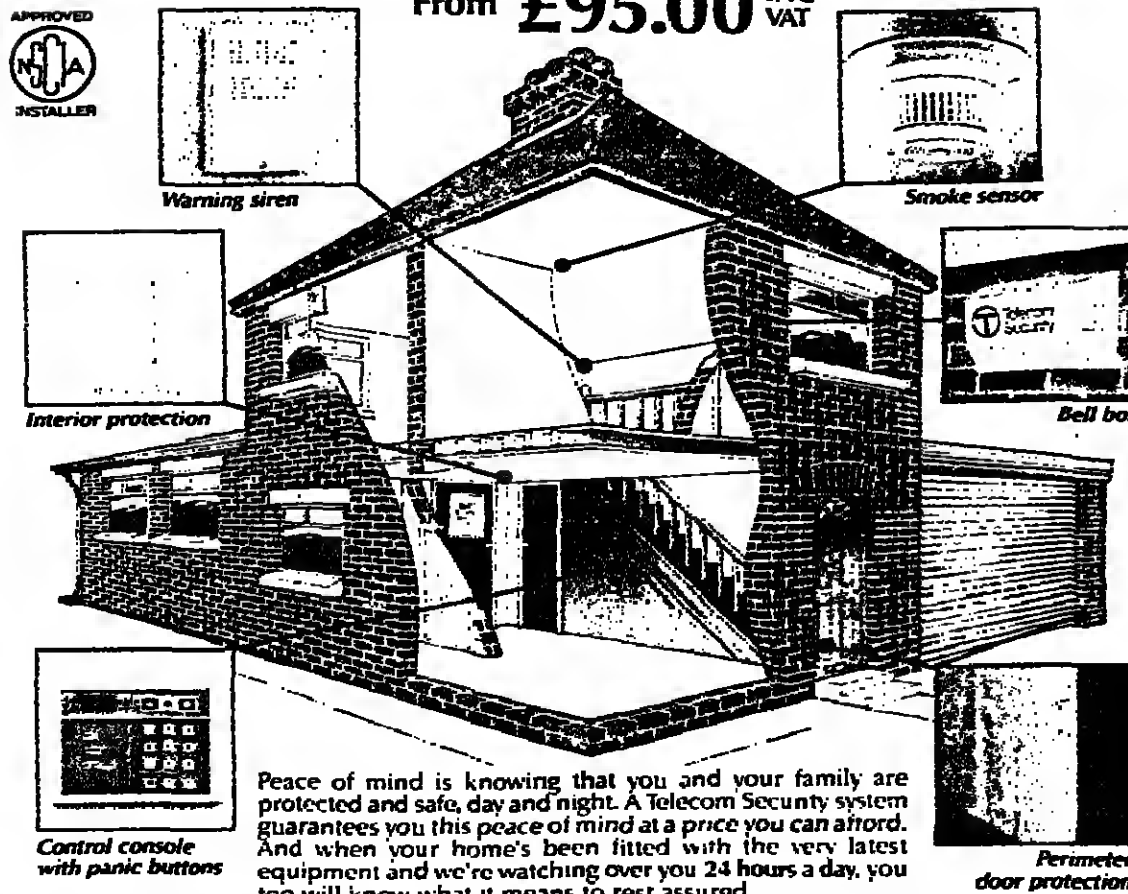
Responding to the challenge: Nigel Mansell, here test-driving at Jerez, has already logged 32 test sessions in his 1989 diary

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Brundle see prospect of a top-10 place in Rio

McLaren-Honda V10
Tyrrell-Ford DFR V8
Williams-Renault V10
Brabham-Judd V8
Arrows-Ford DFR V8
Lotus-Judd V8
March-Judd V8
Osella-Ford DFR V8
Benetton-Ford V8
Dallara-Ford DFR V8
Minardi-Ford DFR V8
Ligier-Ford DFR V8
Ferrari V12
Lola-Lamborghini V12
Coloni-Ford DFR V8
EuroBrun-Ford V8
Zakspeed-Yamaha V8
Onyx-Ford DFR V8
Rial-Ford DFR V8
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AGS-Ford DFR V8

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Onyx-Ford DFR V8
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AGS-Ford DFR V8

ROWING

Gentle touch to harness power on the Tideway

By Mick Cleary

Light blue, dark blue, American, British: short and dark, slim and fair. The two women who will make history at the Boat Race today — it is the first time both coxes have been female — could not be more different.

Leigh Weiss, aged 22, who steers the Cambridge boat, is a sociology graduate from Harvard. She is bubbly, open, friendly and full of jaunty American blarney. In the rival boat sits Alison Norris, aged 20, a first year engineering student from Kingston. She is coy, demure, and given to a distinctly English reticence.

And yet the two women are united by one overriding desire — the craving for victory. Not for nothing have they virtually starved themselves over the last two months to reduce their "dead weight" in the boat, not for nothing have they subjected themselves to the intense strain of living amidst eight sweat-soaked, pumped-up, increasingly twitchy sportsmen. Both women, to be sure, are desperate to win. They simply express that desire in different ways.

Weiss openly embraces the pressures. "I tend to thrive on the responsibility of being a coxswain. It's a great challenge and I love it," she says. "As for being a woman in a traditionally male preserve, an American woman at that, I consider it a great honour. I am enjoying all the attention."

Norris is much lower key. "I am taking a big break after the Boat Race for the build-up has been incredibly demanding," she says. "I am a fairly irresponsible person by nature and I don't really relish all the hype surrounding the event. That said, I do of course get an enormous buzz out of the race itself and if I win it is quite an incredible feeling."

Their rowing backgrounds are also entirely different. Weiss, a keen hockey and lacrosse player, had never rowed before she went to Harvard. The university was short of a cox, a friend

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Record breakers: Weiss and Norris ready to make history

Chance to watch the Whitbread in style

The Times today presents a very special Easter competition offering the chance to win a luxury visit to London for Whitbread Gold Cup day, a programme of National Hunt and Flat racing, at Sandown Park on Saturday, April 29. The Whitbread Gold Cup itself is the last great showpiece of the National Hunt season, and



Desert Orchid, the winner last year, is among the entries for this stupendous over three miles and five furlongs.

In conjunction with Whitbread, we are offering two prizes, each for a winner and a consolation.

First-class rail travel from home in London; then by helicopter to Sandown Park in time for champagne lunch and the afternoon's racing, highlighted by the Whitbread Gold Cup. After racing, return by helicopter to the Grosvenor House Hotel before dinner nearby at 59 Park Lane, one of the finest restaurants in London. Overnight accommodation and breakfast is at the Grosvenor House. On Sunday morning, there is the option of a drive around London before journeying home by rail.

To enter the competition, study the five questions below, then write your answers on the entry form, complete it with your name and address, and send it to the Whitbread Gold Cup Competition, Sports Department, London E1 9XN, to arrive by Monday April 3. The winners will be the holders of the first two correct entries opened from all those received by the closing date.

THE QUESTIONS

1. Who are the two trainers of Whitbread Gold Cup winners who have also ridden winners in the race?
2. Who was the most recent Derby winner to win at Sandown Park on Whitbread Gold Cup day?
3. Which trainer has won the Whitbread Gold Cup a record seven times?
4. In which year did Archie achieve a double of the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Whitbread Gold Cup?
5. Name the jockey of the Queen Mother's Whitbread Gold Cup winner?

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Telephone

ANSWERS

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Employees (and their relatives) of The Times Newspapers Ltd, Whitbread and their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

Cool Ground to fly the flag

Cool Ground is to be flown to Ireland on Monday morning for the Jameson-sponsored Grand National at Fairyhouse the same day.

Richard Mitchell had been reluctant to send his Kim Muir Chaco winner by sea but had also feared this race will be one of the best seen so far in the series.

Major Stewart sprinted clear under Steven Brookshaw to win the 18-runner Coxie race at the Westbury on the 12th of the series. Major Stewart, who rode the 18-runner Coxie race at the Westbury on the 12th of the series, was the fastest of three open races run on that day. This form has been further enhanced by the second horse, Mr Bright Eyes, being the comfortable winner of the Cheshire Forest race on his next start.

Any horse that finishes 12 lengths in front of Dalmore will be a thorough stayer.

THE GOOD RACECOURSE GUIDE

A series of weekly reports on Britain's racecourses
No 30: SOUTHWELL

The smaller racecourses of Great Britain can be devilishly difficult to find. The quest for Southwell is all the harder because the course is set in Southwell at all, but in the neighbouring Nottinghamshire village of Rolleston.

A convoluted local history would appear to hold the key to this Midlands puzzle. Racing of a sort took place in Southwell for centuries, instigated by the church. According to the secretary of Southwell racecourse, Lawrence Astin, the patronage of the church was promoted by the wish to offer a diversion for farmers on rent day.

There is another version which says that racing was laid on by the parish to provide relief to pilgrims over the Pentecost observance. Whatever the history, the sport took on a more organized aspect in 1867 with the setting up of Southwell Racecourse Company.

The venue later moved to Hazelton Ferry and from there, in 1898, to its present location.

Michael Seely tracks down Newmarket's latest arrival, John Gosden

The sheikh's secret weapon

Widely berated as the latest secret weapon in Sheikh Mohammed's armoury, John Gosden presents a modest and unassuming low profile.

"I have mainly got some big, rangy and backward two-year-olds," said the latest addition to Britain's already overcrowded ranks of trainers.

"We're talking about a programme of three, four, five or even six years. The amount of winners isn't going to be the factor at this stage. It is going to be whether the whole operation is moving in the right direction."

The purchase of Stanley House Stables, Newmarket, by Sheikh Mohammed and the head-hunting of the 37-year-old Gosden, one of the leading trainers in California, to run the operation, is symptomatic of the determination and staying power being shown by the Maktoom family of Dubai as they seek to consolidate their already pre-eminent position in British racing.

A sense of history pervades the long, tree-lined drive, which leads from Bury Road in Newmarket to Stanley House and the adjoining stable yard. Built by the 16th Earl of Derby in 1903, these stables have housed the winners of 21 classics.

Hundreds of horse-shoes, decorated in an archway, the collection includes those of Hympton, Fairway and Sunford, all eventually stallions who have had a decisive influence on the evolution of the breed.

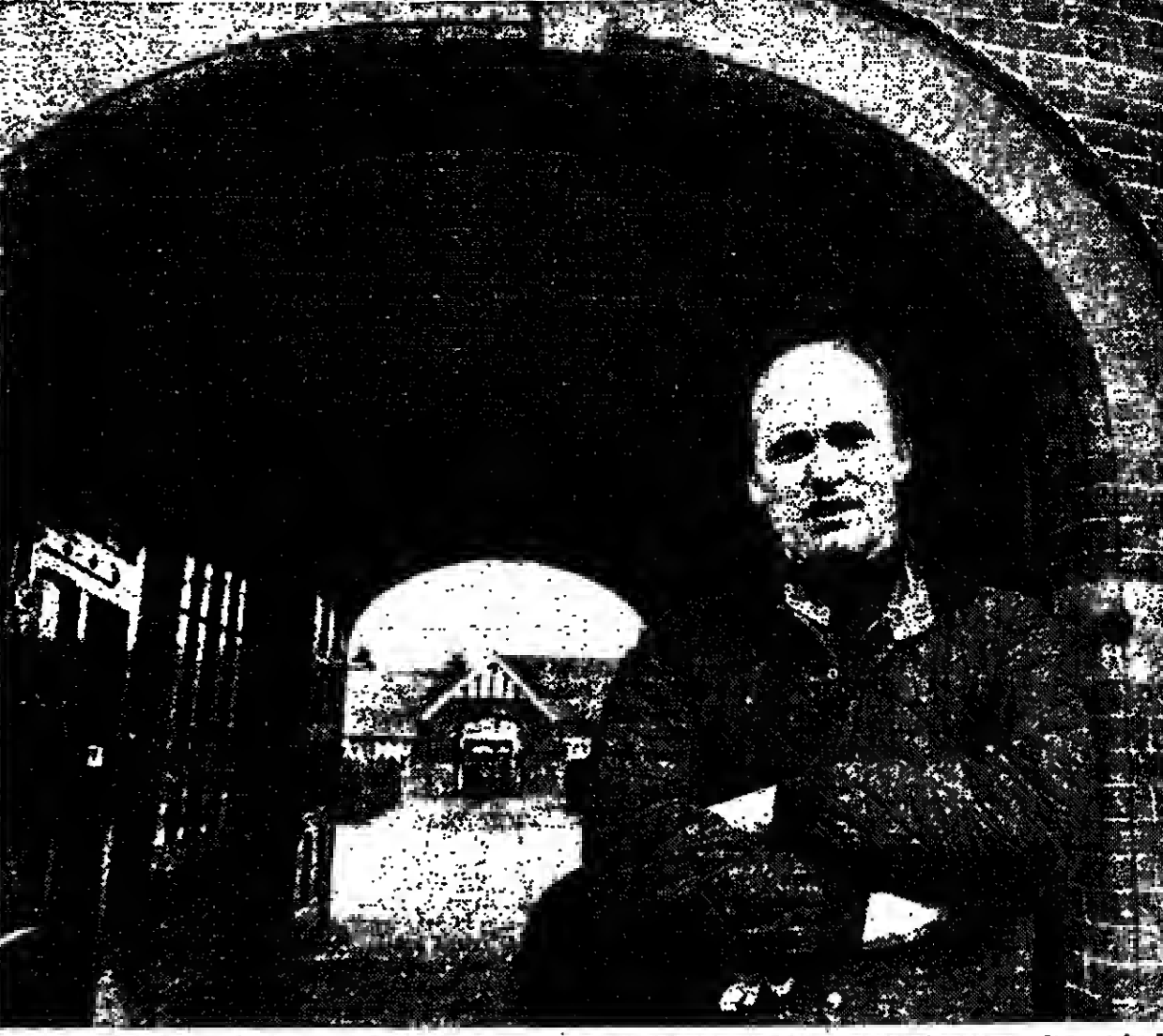
Inside Gosden's makeshift office, the new world bustle contrasted sharply with the old-fashioned scene outside. "We have hardly got anywhere to sit, to live or to work yet," said the trainer. "We are shortly moving into a proper office on the other side of the yard."

Sharing the two small rooms were a couple of secretaries, a mountain of paperwork and the trainer's wife, Rachel, who is a qualified barrister in this country. "In Los Angeles she was managing a real estate and banking firm," Gosden explained. "At present she is helping set things up here until we get sorted out."

It is not only the racing that Gosden finds different in Britain. "Setting up a business seems very complicated over here. There is so much red tape. In America everyone is out to help you move forward. There is still a frontier atmosphere."

The announcement, made in March last year, that Gosden was to move to Britain, caused something of a stir. The competition for training supremacy in our overcrowded little island is always intense.

Gosden acknowledges this. "There are too many horses chasing too little money. That makes it hard to win the good races. And even though I knew it before I came here, I'm now



John Gosden at the entrance to Newmarket's historic Stanley House Stables where 21 classic winners have been trained

looking at entries and am shocked at the low level of prize-money. Ninety per cent of owners must be losing out."

The 70-strong cohorts of trainers like Cecil, Stoute and Cumani that thunder up Warren Hill must be a daily reminder to Gosden of the competition he now has to face. However, in California Gosden more than held his own against such giants of the American scene as D Wayne Lukas and Charlie "Bald Eagle" Whittingham.

"I've been winning three to four million dollars every year. The prize-money is so much better. Even maiden races are worth \$30,000. My best total was \$4.7 million in 1986."

The Sussex-born trainer's expertise has already seen him sought out by leading British owners. For Robert Sangster, he won the 1984 Breeders' Cup Mile with Royal Heroine, who was voted Champion Turf Mare.

Alphabum and Zoffany, both formerly with Guy Harwood, also adapted well to Californian conditions. Alphabum won the Hollywood Turf Cup twice and Zoffany collected over \$1 million in stakes.

The luring of the ex-patriot home was a lengthy process. "It was discussed generally for some time, all quite informally. It was a challenge to come home. This is the country I was born and brought up in. To be quite honest, the

hardest thing was going to America in the first place."

The son of the legendary "Tower" Gosden of Lewes, a trainer noted for his hard-hitting and successful attacks on the bookmakers, John's first racing memories were of his father's five-year-old Aggressor, beating Petite Etolie in the 1960 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. "I was only nine. But I remember riding a finish on an armchair with Jimmy Lindley."

School and university education completed, Gosden went to Venezuela to work in land development. "I went racing a lot. They used to start training at 2am because of the heat exhaustion factor."

In 1974 he returned to England and became assistant trainer to Sir Noel Murless until the great trainer's retirement in 1976. Then came a year with Vincent O'Brien at Ballydoyle, the fabulous 1977 campaign of such stars as The Minstrel, Alleged, Artatus, Be My Guest, Godswalk and Try My Best. He went to California the next year and started training in 1979.

Anthony Stroud, the Sheikh's racing manager, considers that Gosden's transatlantic experience will be an invaluable asset for the team's long-term strategy. "We certainly intend running more horses in the States as there is so much prize-money to be won," he says.

The dramatic drop in stallion values and in the blood-

stock industry since the peak of 1984 have created a new sense of urgency on this front.

"It is becoming an even bigger factor to race horses for prize-money," said Gosden. "It is getting back to basics, to what a horse can earn to pay for itself."

North American raids from European bases are yearly becoming more common-place. "It is certainly possible to set up a limited campaign. Acclimatization isn't as important as people think. It is not changing hemispheres, it's the shipping, that's all important."

The historic Newmarket gallops certainly present a striking contrast to the shanty-town atmosphere of the Los Angeles training centres. "It is all on track. You've got 2,000 horses using the same facilities in a metropolitan area. But you get used to working under those conditions. Everyone is playing off the same handicap."

The Gosdens' lifestyle is certainly going to be different. "It was very pleasant. It was a marvelous climate and we had a swimming pool. We were 20 minutes from Santa Anita and 25 from Hollywood Park. But it was marvellously anonymous."

"When you got in your car and left the track, you were just another commuter. But in Newmarket, if I go into Boot's, three or four people

follow me to see what I'm buying."

Earlier, on a stable tour, we had been accompanied by Edward Hide, formerly a crack jockey and now Gosden's assistant. "Edward's going to be a great help with placing horses, with his knowledge of the different tracks and the racing programme. It's an area I quite frankly regard myself as being weak in."

Part of the stable area is dominated by Stanley House, Lord Derby's Newmarket home. "At present we are living in the town with our young children, Sebastian and Serena, but in due course, though heaven knows when, we plan to move into Fairway, where Gavin Pritchard-Gordon used to live."

The determined low-key image, adopted by the new arrival on a jealous as well as highly competitive scene, persisted on the round of horses. But it was noteworthy that the "big, backward two-year-olds" included a colt by Northern Dancer out of Glorious Song and another by El Gran Señor.

The trainer's empathy with his horses quickly became obvious. Discussing In Council, a two-year-old colt by Blakeney out of Regal Lady, he said: "Belongs to Mr. Abdulla. Not very promising to look at, but quite a little character and goes well. Unfortunately, some of the best-looking ones catch your eye in their boxes but disappoint on the Heath."

The new Flat jockeys' championship again appears to be dominated by those old adversaries, Steve Caughan and Peter Wainwright. Both riders have fiercely duelled for the coveted crown over the last five seasons.

Battle royal predicted by Mercer

By Christopher Gossling

The new Flat jockeys' championship again appears to be dominated by those old adversaries, Steve Caughan and Peter Wainwright. Both riders have fiercely duelled for the coveted crown over the last five seasons.

Caughan has been the victor on three occasions. However, well before Caughan arrived from the United States, Eddery had clinched the title on four consecutive occasions.

Mr Mercer, who now manages the racing interests of Maktoom Al-Maktoum, was the leading rider in 1979, and cannot visualize Caughan or Eddery losing their grip on the championship.

"I think they will both continue to dominate the championship for many more years to come," said Mercer yesterday, on his return from riding work for Peter Wainwright.

"They are both brilliant jockeys. Steve is backed up by Henry Cecil, who has dominated the trainers' championship on eight occasions. He is an outstanding rider with a very likeable personality."

"Par has a slight advantage over Steve being a couple of pounds lighter. And, of course, there is still Willie (Carson), who is always banishing away the competition."

Mercer added: "Ray Cochrane went well last year with 120 winners, finishing in fourth place. I can see him doing well again as he rides for Luca Cumani, who has a wonderful team of horses in his stable this year."

Caughan, ruled out of the title finish last season following that terrible fall at Goodwood in August, finished the season in fifth place.

Mercer finds it impossible to predict the outcome of this year's title, which concludes at Doncaster on November 11. "They are both such level-headed riders and both manage to keep out of the wrath of the stewards," Mercer said. "I really don't know what the outcome will be."

However, bookmakers have no doubts. Eddery is a firm favourite at 9-4 on Caughan at a 5-2 chance.

CRICKET

Stewart's plan hits problems

The England team manager, Micky Stewart, hopes to organize a pre-season gathering of Test candidates as part of the build-up to this summer's series against Australia.

"I would like to involve as many as possible of the 16 players who would have gone to India last winter, plus a few others," Stewart said. "But it all depends on who is available and what facilities we can find."

Stewart's plans for a full scale England training session have been hit by a growing rift among the counties to arrange pre-season tours.

At least six of the 17 first-class clubs will be spending time abroad before the start of the season on April 15, when MCC play the champion county at Lord's, Worcestershire, who are to play in Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore.

Stewart yesterday scotched suggestions that a 25-strong squad for the series against the Ashes will be named within the next few days. "That is not the case," he said.

The manager, like the new chairman of selectors, Ted Dexter, is keen to operate a squad system but they and fellow committee members, Ossie Wheatley and Alan Smith, are not due to meet again until next Friday. Their most pressing task is to name a captain.

CYCLING

Pritchard masters the storm

By Peter Bryan

A spring tide, which severely flooded parts of the coast road, delayed the first event of the Guiseley four-day holiday cycling festival yesterday.

Riders also took a battering from the strong south-westerly winds in the 25-mile time trial but the national champion, John Pritchard, appeared unaffected by the stormy conditions.

He won in 58min 38sec indicating that he will still be a force to be reckoned with when he defends his British 25-mile title in June, at the age of 41.

Pritchard, nearing the end of his service as a physical training instructor with the RAF, was almost a minute clear of Ray Hughes and the international roadman, Ian Brown.

Britain's best all-rounder champion, Ian Carmichael, who is recovering from an attack of salmonella poisoning, abandoned his effort before the half-distance.

Adrian Hawkins won the White Horse sprint at the season's opening track meeting at Herne Hill in a manner that suggested that he must be in the short list for England's Commonwealth Games team.

His tactics in the final were to attack early and he survived a roughhouse cross and in the back straight to beat Neil Potter and David Cross.

SWIMMING

Hill proves she is well on the way to recovery

By Steven Downes

It has been a long hard struggle for Jean Hill, the Commonwealth Games double silver medal winner from Cumberland, who suffered a ubiquitous "mystery virus" in the middle of her preparations for last year's Olympic Games, yesterday, though, at the second Edinburgh International meet, she showed she is well on the way to a full recovery of her old medal winning form.

At 23 years of age, some who saw her in tears when she was dragged exhausted from her home pool last November, when she attempted to race while still suffering from the virus, may have wondered if her career was over. It is not. Hill's impressive best time of 1min 13.58sec in the 100 metres breaststroke was more than three seconds quicker than all her rivals and, most importantly, was inside the qualifying time

which the Scottish ASA has set the swimmers for guaranteed selection for next year's Commonwealth Games.

It seems likely that Hill will also win the 200 metres medley in New Zealand, as her form in the heats in that event was also impressive. Her 2hr 21min 82sec was only marginally outside the qualifying time.

Caroline Foot, of the Millfield School Team, is another Commonwealth Games medal winner who was in good form yesterday as the fastest qualifier for the 100 metres butterfly.

More importantly for the British team which is to compete in the Spring Trophy in Sweden next weekend, Anna Baker, aged 18, from Norwich, was also looking good. Her 65.65sec heat swim was a timely one in the light of the withdrawal from the British team for Sweden of Madeline Scarborough.

Eddery to cele season with

Course notes

NEWCASTLE

THE TIMES RACING

1 Gosden
apon

Eddery to celebrate start of new season with Kempton treble

Three off, another in doubt

Champion jockey Pat Eddery can begin the defence of his title in fine style by landing a treble at Kempton today, the first day of the new flat season, on *Alasbiba* (4.5), *Always Valiant* (4.4) and *Cronk's Courage* (5.10).

After all the recent rain, the going on the Sunbury track is bound to be testing, but that will not worry Always Valiant, who is my selection to win the Bonaparte Easter Stakes, the day's most valuable race.

For it was just as soft underfoot at Newbury last October when the Neville Callaghan-trained colt was beaten only a short head in the group three Horris Hill Stakes.

Before that Always Valiant had again been runner-up to the unbeaten Irish colt *Classic Fame* in the National Stakes at the Curragh after winning at Newbury and Newmarket.

Significantly, in view of today's contest, there had again been some cut in the ground at Newmarket when he won the July Stakes, which also boasts good status.

Like Always Valiant, Sharp

Justice has also shown his best form on soft ground as indeed one might expect of a son of *Sharpo*.

But being by that champion sprinter he seems less likely to see the trip out than a son of *Valiary*, whose victories on the course included the Queen Anne Stakes over a mile at Royal Ascot.

Lunar Mover and Wasting, on the other hand, were both bred to get a mile comfortably, being by *Sharpen Up* and *Wassil* respectively.

On form, though, they still have a bit to find in order to beat one of the calibre of Always Valiant, who is taken to live up to his name in today's tough conditions.

As for the Bonaparte Easter Stakes, it is hard to get away from the fact that *Alasbiba* ought to be the winner on this ground, more especially as she has been successful first time out since spring even though her trainer, Peter Walwyn, concedes that she is still not fully wound up.

On a day when *Alasbiba* has made what may well turn out

to be a significant journey from Jack Berry's Lancashire stable to begin his racing career by contesting the EBF Redfern Maiden Stakes, Harreck is napped to get followers of Paul Cole's stable off to a good start by winning the Queen's Prize.

Cole is hopeful that Harreck can reproduce last spring's form when he won at Beverley in between being placed in better races at Kempton and York. He also showed that he can go on this ground and that he gets this trip.

A displaced back is now attributed to those subsequent bad runs at Warwick and Ayr, but that problem appears to be remedied, judged on recent homework.

While I nominated the course and distance winner Milton Burn as the main danger following a spell of hurrying during which he won twice, Cole said that he is more afraid of Sweet Enough, whose trainer Chris Brittain won this race 12 months ago.

However, she has previous little in hand of Double Dutch

on the form book, judged on how they ran against one another at Lingfield last autumn.

In my judgement, the handicapper could well have dropped Harreck enough in view of his failures for him to be on the right mark now.

No matter how Sweet Enough fares, her trainer should soon get off the mark by winning the Dart Advertising Maiden Stakes at Newmarket with House Of Commons, who would appear to have sufficient in hand over the fit hurdler Smart Performer to break his duck.

Otherwise, it could well pay to follow George Duffield riding Winking Winner (3.15) and Martin-Lavell Echo (3.45) at Gosforth Park.

On the jumping front, I am acutely aware of the fact that our old ally Rowlandson's Trophy has a good chance of winning the Little Everdon Novices' Hurdle at Towcester, whose trainer John Eborac, Richard Dunwoody, is a double on High Aloft (2.30) and Brother Geoffrey (3.30).

Three of today's eight meetings were abandoned yesterday and another hinges on an early morning inspection. Two of the 16 fixtures for Monday, the busiest racing day of the year, are already in doubt.

Haydock Park, due to stage the first race of the new flat season, was called off early yesterday morning as parts of the course are waterlogged. The Belfry Homes Handicap at Newmarket will now get flat proceedings under way.

The other abandonments today are the National Hunt meetings at Plumpton, Newton Abbot, where the courses are waterlogged. Both tracks are also due to race on Monday and inspections tomorrow morning have already been planned.

Today's meeting at Carlisle, who have yet to run a race this year after three abandonments, hangs on a 7.30am inspection.

KEMPTON PARK

Selections
By Mandarin
2.30 *Alasbiba*.
3.00 *Sereno*.
3.30 *HARRECK* (nap).
4.05 *Alasbiba*.
4.40 *Always Valiant*.
5.10 *Cronk's Courage*.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.30 —
3.00 *Sweet Enough* (nap).
3.30 *Sweet Enough* (nap).
4.05 *Good Partners*.
4.40 *Always Valiant*.
5.10 *Silks Princess*.

By Michael Seely
3.00 *Sereno*. 3.30 *MILTON BURN* (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.30 *HARRECK*.

Going: soft
2.30 EBF REDFERN MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £1,987; 5f) (11 runners)
101 (9) *ARSONAL* (R. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
102 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
103 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
104 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
105 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
106 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
107 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
108 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
109 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
110 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
111 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10

3.00 CHATSWORTH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
202 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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3.30 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
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4.05 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
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4.40 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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5.10 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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212 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10

3.30 QUEEN'S PRIZE (Handicap: £2,612; 2m) (11 runners)

301 (9) *ARSONAL* (R. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
302 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
303 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
304 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
305 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
306 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
307 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
308 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
309 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
310 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
311 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10
312 (9) *ALASBIBA* (A. Shalton) A. Shalton 5-10

4.05 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
202 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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4.40 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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212 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10

5.10 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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5.40 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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6.10 HARRIS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,782; 1m 2f) (12 runners)
201 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
202 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10
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212 (9) *WOODSIDE MILL* (M. P. Harbeck) R. Harbeck 5-10

TOWCESTER

Selections
By Mandarin
2.0 High Imp 2.30 High Aloft 3.0 Border Burg
3.30 Brother Geoffrey 4.0 Our Tinker 4.30 Turkish Tourist.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

Going: soft
2.0 28th YEAR OF THE SCHILLIZ CHALLENGE BOWL HANDICAP CHASE (E1,570; 2m 50yd) (4 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

3.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

4.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

7.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

8.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

9.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

3.30 24th YEAR OF THE SCHILLIZ 1906 COMMEMORATIVE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £1,952; 2m 51 110yd) (5)

1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

4.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

10.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

11.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

12.0 EMPIRE ELIZABETH OF AUSTRIA HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,372; 3m 190yd) (11 runners)
1 0110 HIGH IMP 2.30 HIGH ALOFT 3.0 BORDER BURG 3.30 BROTHER GEOFFREY 4.0 OUR TINKER 4.30 TURKISH TOURIST.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.0 Hank.

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Glendora best at the Curragh
The former Luca Cumanini-trained Glendora, now with John Oxx, can collect the first major flat handicap, the Irish Lincolnshire, over a mile at the Curragh today (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).
Glendora wound up last season with a success on testing ground at Newbury in October. Similar underfoot conditions are guaranteed today if the course passes a precautionary 7am inspection.
The filly will be all the better for her recent third behind handicapper Clemen and Marvellous Mar in a Lincolnshire trial at Leopardstown.
Racing next week
MONDAY: Kempton Park, Newmarket, Nottingham, Warwick, Cheltenham, Carlisle, Fakenham, Hereford, Huntingdon, Market Rasen, Newton Abbot, Plumpton, Towcester, Uttoxeter, Wetherby, Wincanton.
TUESDAY: Warwick, Cheltenham, Uttoxeter, Wetherby.
WEDNESDAY: Carlisle, Bridge, Wincanton.
THURSDAY: Doncaster, Taunton.
FRIDAY: Doncaster, Newbury, Ludlow.
SATURDAY: Doncaster, Newbury, Bangor, Hinchinbrook.

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Nursery rhyme and reason

The extent of the garden now



Turfed in: dog's tooth violets, *Erythronium denscanis*, naturalized in grass in Beth Chatto's woodland garden, latest project in her Colchester nursery

Part of her secret is that inside the woodland habitat she uses species, or early crosses, rather than the more artificial garden hybrids. In the turf, there are the lovely dog's tooth violets (*Erythronium denscanis*) and glossy green sheaves of colchicum leaves — "I can't think why people dislike them, they are so handsome" — which will die back in the summer, for the pink autumn crocus...flowers to appear bare, against a background of grass.

We moved on to private territory where the nursery plants are propagated, and where Beth Chatto has decided to devote a considerable part of her time "to raising plants — not necessarily difficult in the garden — but which are difficult or

When sufficient stocks have been built up from the mother plants, new entries appear with lovingly attentive descriptions in the latest catalogue. A preview of the list for autumn 1989 reveals the creamy

The Unusual Plants Catalogue is £1.30 (inc p+P). If you would like any of the plants above, please identify yourself as a reader of this column – you will also automatically receive the next catalogue and supplementary list. The Beth Chatto Gardens and Nursery (Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB) are open March–October, Mon–Fri 9am–5pm. The garden is open daily (except Sundays and Bank Holidays) under the National Gardens Scheme, admission £1, child free.

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Act now to increase next year's spread of white wonder

Spending my time prostrate among snowdrops in damp corners and meadows in damp woods before winter has melted away the things of the earth (*Francesca Grogan writes*). First, despite the adamant denial of one reader of this column, snowdrops have a scent; second, the English language is deficient in the vocabulary of scent. What can you say about the earthy smell of daffodils, except that they are daffodil-scented? Similarly, the snowdrops have a slight, piquant but unmistakable scent, like nothing but itself. Like violets, primroses, wood anemones and other delicate flowers of early spring, they give their scent only when warmed, and seem to close it off as the flowers around them overblow. As the early snowdrops brighten up a marshy road, gives out a good scent, so do recently opened clumps in the sun.

There are about 50 kinds of

snowdrops with distinctively different markings and forms. I grow the common snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis*, which is naturalized in woodlands and has a wispy, effeminate scent, but I am told by experts that some varieties, especially one called *Galanthus plicatus* Warham, have a more pronounced scent — though whether stronger or sweeter, I do not yet know.

Double snowdrops seem to smell less, but it is the lumpy full-skirtedness of the inner petals which is grounds for complaint in those connoisseurs who value above all

the characteristic, graceful slenderness of single flowers. Growing both singles and doubles myself, I find they naturalize equally well (though doubles cannot be reproduced from seed). I believe there is room for both, especially having been introduced recently to Lady Elphinstone, a variety which has yellow edgings on the frilled skirts.

To increase the spread of snowdrops, dig up sizable clumps, carefully separate the individual bulbs with their leaves and replant. A number of different kinds are beginning to be available at some nurseries in spring, since many experts now believe that transplanting (in the green) is better than waiting until autumn, when bulbs can easily dry out, becoming shrivelled and impossible to grow. Certainly, buying green plants reassures the purchaser that they are home-grown stocks and not illegally taken from the wild in Asia Minor.

Snowdrops thrive in most soils in shade or dappled shade (though they should be planted less deeply - about 2in/5cm - in heavy ground). Winter aconites which have finished flowering can also be divided and transplanted in the same way now.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow pinks (*dianthus*), salvias and nicotianas in the greenhouse.
- Plant pot-grown strawberries now, and you can have a few strawberries to eat in the summer. Sow alpine strawberries.
- Plant on pots of bulbs after flowers have faded (after leaving them outside to acclimatize for a week first).
- Sow early varieties of peas such as Meteor if weather confines mild.
- Sow Brussels sprouts in pots to plant out from mid-May.
- Plant early potatoes which should have good strong shoots, and sow early junios under cloches.

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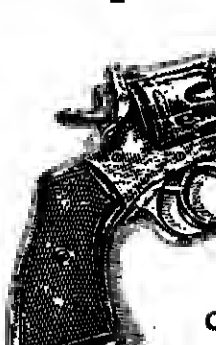
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*At five minutes
to midnight,
Det. Sgt.
Cattermole
asked us to
gather in the
Amdega.*

We filed into the Amdega. The night sky glittered at us through the glass which shielded us from the cold night air. As we assembled, I considered our surroundings.

AMDEGA

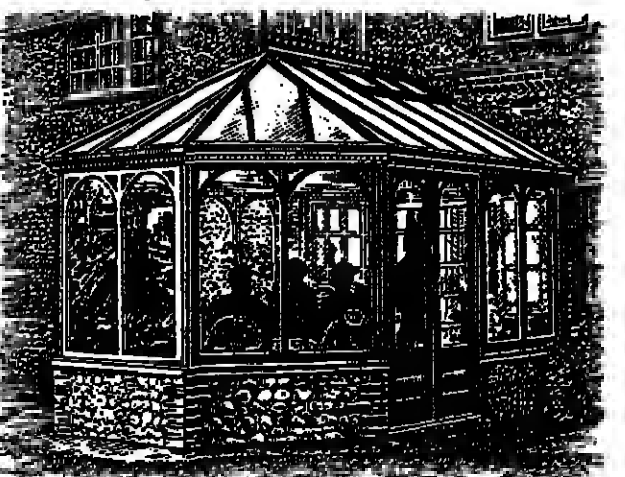
Since 1874 Amdega have been building elegant conservatories for the discerning, using, I noted at the time of construction, the finest weather-resistant Western Red Cedar. Each piece is hand-finished by an




Amdega expert. This is characteristic of Amdega's positively Victorian approach to craftsmanship: each conservatory is supervised by an Amdega master joiner who makes the construction his personal responsibility. I was not entirely amazed, then, to learn that Amdega have been selling conservatories world-wide since this green and pleasant land's imperial days.

At ten minutes past midnight, the members of the house found themselves wending their way back to bed.

Indeed, it is a little irritating to be dragged down in one's nightwear at such an unearthly hour only to be told the butler did it.



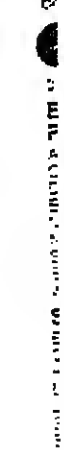
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**Fears for
UK won't
Gulf**

- Four British Army training camps have been held by the IRA.
- A newspaper publisher was interviewed by the security forces.

Four doctors, a woman, and the brothers of an American family were reportedly killed by the hoards of Arab tribes after their camp was surrounded by the enemy.

The reports of Douglas there, necessary, few in number, talks on the subject.

The reported could have been taken from the Arab tribes after the clash between the

Have you ever caught in a trap over Easter? We're every chance we know of. Today's Easter bunnies are a lot like the ones we've seen before.

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• Tournament of Champions
 • Mint page 11.
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 • resume center

INSIDE

Mansell's win in Rio

Nigel Mansell, the racing driver, was crowned Formula One World Champion for the first time in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Mansell, 34, won the race by a margin of 1.1 seconds over Michael Schumacher, who finished second.

The race was held at the Autodromo Internacional de Rio de Janeiro, and was the 16th round of the 1992 season.

Mansell's victory was a significant achievement, as it marked his first win since 1987, when he won the British Grand Prix.

He also became the first British driver to win the Brazilian Grand Prix since Graham Hill in 1968.

Mansell's win was a surprise, as he had not been considered a favorite to win the race.

He had finished 11th in the qualifying session, but he was able to overtake several cars during the race.

His victory was a testament to his skill and determination, and it was a moment of triumph for him and his team.

Mansell's win in Rio was a historic moment in the history of Formula One, and it will be remembered for years to come.

Thatcher tour
The Prime Minister's African tour includes a stop in South Africa but she will not play a role as peace broker.
Leading analyst

Liverpool win
late challenge
championship
away at Spurs

Treasury sale

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Doctor

هكذا من الاصل